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Annual Report

on the

Health

of the

County Borough of Wigan

by the

Medical Officer of Health

1953



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH

of the

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN

FOR THE YEAR 1953



J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer



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HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953.

(APPOINTED 20th MAY, 1953).

Chairman	Councillor J. T. LYNCH, J.P.	
Vice-Chairman	Alderman Mrs. E. ASHURST.	
The Mayor	Alderman J. ASPINALL, J.P.	
The Ex-Mayor	Councillor T. R. LYTHGOE.	
Alderman	T. COBLEY	
Councillors	J. BOWDEN	J. COLLINS
	F. CONNOLLY	E. DRONEY
	J. DUNN	T. HIGHAM
	H. HOUGHTON	T. MONKS
	Mrs. E. NAYLOR	P. NOLAN
	Mrs. C. PRESTON	J. RANKIN
	O. SOMERS	J. TABERNER
	S. TOWNLEY	S. WILD
Co-opted Members	Mr. T. M. BROADIE-GRIFFITH, Ll.B.	
	Dr. E. GRAHAM	Mr. J. HEGARTY
	Mrs. B. G. HOUGHTON	Mrs. C. RAYNER

STAFF, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health	J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers	I. M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
	*E. R. M. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B.
Dental Officer	*C. F. L. PURSLOW, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.
Chest Physician	*C. D. RUSHWORTH, M.R.C.S. Eng.,
Consultant Venereologist	*PHILIP S. SILVER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Orthopaedic Surgeon	*Miss M. F. JOHNSTONE, M.B., Ch.B.
Ophthalmic Surgeon	*H. B. BARKER, M.B., B.S.

Consultant Obstetric Surgeon	....	*R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., M.R.C.O.G. F.R.C.S. (E.).
Public Analyst	....	S. ERNEST MELLING, F.I.C.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	....	J. ASHTON (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>).
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector		V. JONES (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>)
Sanitary Inspectors	....	R. C. WOODS (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) P. STRAFFORD (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>f</i>) J. B. MARSH (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>f</i>) G. DUNN (<i>a</i>) (<i>to</i> 31st Oct.). C. JACKSON (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) E. CARSON (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>f</i>) (<i>to</i> 30th April) T. SUTTON (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>to</i> 31st May) J. BELL (<i>a</i>) (<i>from</i> 1st August)
Health Visitors	....	M. E. WHEAT (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) E. HANSON (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) E. M. WRIGHT (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (<i>g</i>) C. JACKSON (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (<i>g</i>) C. V. KILCULLEN (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) Z. M. VERNON (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (<i>g</i>) A. PAINTER (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (<i>g</i>) (<i>from</i> 1st April)
Tuberculosis Nurse	....	E. CODY (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>)
Supervisor of Midwives	....	E. M. READING (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>)

Midwives :

M. QUINN (c) (d)	E. WILLIAMS (c) (d)
E. HIGHTON (c)	M. WOODWARD (c)
M. L. LYNCH (c)	R. M. HADDOCK (c) (d)
C. MORRIS (c) (d)	E. S. ROGERS (c)
C. RYDER (c) (d)	D. CAREY (c) (d)
N. HARRISON (c) (d)	K. A. KERMEEN (c) (d)
H. KAY (c) (d) (from 15th Jan. to 30th Sept.)	M. STOREY (c) (d) (from 1st October)

ELLESMERE ROAD NURSERY MATRON	M. F. LAVIN (d) (h)
HOME NURSING SUPERINTENDENT	L. MAHER (c) (d) (g)
OCCUPATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR	J. HANSON
CHIEF CLERK	A. N. BYERS

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE :

Authorised Officers and	{ V. CROWLEY
Mental Health Visitors	{ J. A. PIETRE. B.A.
Authorised Officer and Clerk	J. AINSCOUGH

WELFARE SERVICES :

Senior Assistant, Welfare Services H. THACKER, D.P.A., M.Inst.S.W.

Ambulance Service :

Ambulance Officer T. A. ATHERTON, B.E.M.

* Part-Time Officers.

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Meat Inspectors Certificate.
- (c) Certificate, Central Midwives Board.
- (d) General Trained.
- (e) The Royal Sanitary Institute, Health Visitors Certificate.
- (f) The Royal Sanitary Institute Smoke Inspectors Certificate.
- (g) Queen's Nurse.
- (h) Registered Fever Nurse.

HEALTH OFFICE,

WIGAN.

July, 1954.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Wigan.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the inhabitants of the County Borough for the year 1953.

Virtually full employment has been maintained in the town during the year and this is reflected in the well-being of all classes of the population, although the numbers of those seeking sickness benefit did not maintain the low level noted in 1952.

Both the adjusted birth rate and the adjusted death rate have fallen and the infantile mortality rate, that sensitive index of environment and mothercraft, has fallen to a record low level for the Borough (37.6 per 1,000 live births). It is, however, still well above the national level. The neo-natal death rate was also reduced from 26.7 to 23 per 1,000 live births, and of these 80% died in the first week of life, mainly due to prematurity.

Clinic attendances have been well maintained and both infant welfare clinics and post-natal clinics showed increases over the year 1952. The ante-natal clinics were less popular as many general practitioners are now conducting ante-natal clinics on their own premises.

The revised scale of charges at Ellesmere Road Nursery have not caused any falling off in attendance and during the year an extension to the nursery was commenced. This will increase its capacity by 15 places and will make segregation into three age groups possible.

The number of persons in the town who are protected against smallpox is dangerously small and in order to encourage mothers to have their babies vaccinated the Council has sought the approval of the Ministry to a scheme whereby these vaccinations can be undertaken in the clinics by Assistant Medical Officers of Health. The Council's proposals with regard to immunisation have also been revised to allow protection against whooping cough to be offered.

At the close of the year two Ford cars were purchased for the use of the male nurses, who have to cover large areas of the borough. Their delivery coincided with the absence of several of the home nursing staff through sickness and without the cars the remaining staff would not have been able to cope with all the calls made upon them.

Staffing difficulties are still being experienced in connection with the health visiting service. We are three health visitors short of our normal complement but every effort is being made to recruit them, including sponsored studentships at selected training courses.

During the year steps have been taken to obtain accommodation for an additional maternity and child welfare clinic in the Goose Green area. This area which is somewhat remote from either Newtown or Worsley Mesnes is inadequately covered and the building of new housing accommodation in this area will accentuate the problem.

It is with regret that I record the death of Dr. E. R. M. Wilson in January, 1954, after a short illness. Dr. Wilson was imbued with the preventive outlook in medicine and her work in the School Health Service and in connection with the Mental Health Service of the Borough was outstanding.

Included in the report are photographs of Norley Hall, which was opened by His Worship the Mayor in April, 1953. This is the first hostel in the Borough which has been entirely newly built and judging by the homely atmosphere and the comments of the residents, it has proved a successful venture.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has commented on the work of the sanitary services and a perusal of the report will reveal the volume of painstaking work which has been done by the inspectors. Hygiene of food stores and cafes is front page news, especially when a small outbreak of food poisoning hits the headlines, usually after some ceremonial feast or wedding breakfast. Sanitary Inspectors spend an increasing proportion of their time instructing food handlers and managements how to prevent food poisoning. On the whole the response is good and some of the cafes, snack bars and food shops in the town achieve a very high standard. Money has to be spent on these improvements but one shopkeeper has observed that since he installed a new shop front and refrigerated display counters the number of customers entering his shop has actually doubled over the period of a few months. No doubt he is well satisfied with his contribution towards the public health. The cleaning-up of unsatisfactory food premises is to some extent in the hands of the general public and especially the housewives, who should buy their food only where they see it being hygienically handled. One need not be trained in sanitary science to appreciate the dangers associated with the confectioner's assistant who licks her fingers, the better to separate the paper bags, between fingering each cake into its appropriate place; or with the windowless fish or meat shop open to the dust and flies of a busy street; or yet again with the green vegetables left well within the line of fire of the passing dog. By all means let us be reasonable in our demands, but it is high time that travellers from the United States and North European countries could visit the United Kingdom without being confronted with those low standards of food hygiene which they have criticised all too frequently during the past few years.

I am once again indebted to those officers of other Corporation departments who have supplied statistical material for inclusion in this report.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the courtesy and kindness with which they have considered the various suggestions and recommendations made to them, and the staff of the Department for their loyal assistance throughout the year in the common effort to maintain the Public Health.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. HAWORTH HILDITCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section I

**Natural and
Social Conditions
of the Area**

GENERAL

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,082
Rateable Value of the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£488,558
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£1,925
Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July, 1953 (on which figure statistics in this report are based)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	83,260
Number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1953 (according to the rate books)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23,714
Number of marriages solemnised within the Borough during 1953								761

A substantial portion of the Borough is used for agricultural purposes. These areas are sparsely populated. The average number of persons per acre varies in the fourteen wards within the Borough from 4 to 71, the average being 16.4. The Borough of Wigan forms a considerable part of the valley of the River Douglas. The river, which is the boundary on the north side, continues its course to the centre of the town and finally becomes the boundary at the west side. The levels on which the river enters and leaves are respectively 150 and 69 feet above sea level. Water taken from the river feeds the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which traverses the town. Due to the meagre drop in level the river water flows slowly and the bed is self-cleaning only during the winter months. The waters are badly polluted before they enter the Borough and as a result of this and subsequent pollution the river maintains little or no life—plant or animal. The maximum elevations of the town are at the extreme north 254 feet and at the south-west 260 feet. The lowest level is at the north-west boundary which is 69 feet above sea level.

Geologically, the whole of the Borough rests on the lower coal measures, or Gannister beds, which are here very superficial. This has led to outcrop mining in several parts of the district. The subsoil is mainly clay which in places has a depth of nearly 20 feet; but there is an important layer of sand covering a large part of the centre of the town and extending northwards in the direction of Standish. This sand is also found in “pockets” in other parts of the Borough. Much of the western portion, beyond the Park, lies on a fairly extensive gravel bed.

Extensive mining operations over several generations have brought about subsidence in many parts of the Borough. In some areas this has had a disastrous effect on property and is a constant source of worry both as regards the condition of old sewers and water mains and planning sites for new buildings.

The population is essentially an industrial one, the principal industries being coal, iron, cotton, and the manufacture of clothing.

The development of the Lamberhead Green trading estate has brought new light industry to the town and a Ministry of Labour Remploy factory caters for the disabled who are able to perform useful work.

During the year there has been virtually full employment in the Borough and the busy shops reflect an air of prosperity.

Section II



Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS, 1952-53.

	1952	1953
Area (acres)	5,082	5,082
Population (Estimated by Registrar General)	83,640	83,260
Live Births : Males 676 } Females 627 } Total	1,347	1,303
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.10	15.65
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Area comparability factor 1.00)	16.10	15.65
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.05	1.01
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.3	15.5
Ditto, 160 County Boroughs and great towns	16.9	17.0
Illegitimate births number 30, or .36 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of	3.04	2.03
Deaths : Males 562 } Females 439 } Total	1,100	1,001
Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.15	12.02
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population (Area comparability factor 1.12)	14.73	13.46
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.30	1.18
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3	11.4
Ditto, 160 County Boroughs and great towns	12.1	12.2
Excess of Registered Births over Deaths	247	303
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil.	0.74
Tuberculosis Death Rates :—		
Pulmonary 0.24 } Other than Pulmonary 0.01 } Total	0.17	0.25
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years	1	1
Death Rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	0.74	0.76
Infantile Rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	40.8	37.6
Ditto for England and Wales	27.6	26.8
Ditto for 160 County Boroughs and great towns	31.2	30.8
Neo-Natal Rate	26.7	23.0
Still-Birth Rate	31.6	37.0
Deaths of Infants under 1 day old	13	15
Ditto 1 year (legitimate)	54	46
Ditto 1 year (illegitimate)	1	3

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953.

CAUSES	Sex	All Ages	0+	1+	5+	15+	25+	45+	65+	75+
ALL CAUSES	M. F.	562 439	24 25	3 2	— 1	5 2	31 27	180 104	164 129	155 149
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M. F.	14 6	— —	— —	— —	— —	5 4	6 1	3 1	— —
2. Tuberculosis, Other	M. F.	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— —
3. Syphilitic Disease	M. F.	2 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
4. Diphtheria	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Whooping Cough	M. F.	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M. F.	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	— —	— —	— —
8. Measles	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M. F.	— 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 1	— —	— —
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M. F.	18 16	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	9 9	5 5	3 2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M. F.	25 4	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	19 1	6 2	— 1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	F.	20	—	—	—	—	1	15	3	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	F.	9	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M. F.	39 25	— —	1 —	— —	— —	1 4	17 12	12 7	8 2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M. F.	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— —
16. Diabetes	M. F.	2 6	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— 1	— 1	1 3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M. F.	66 57	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 1	19 10	28 29	16 17
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M. F.	76 38	— —	— —	— —	— —	4 —	27 11	29 15	16 12

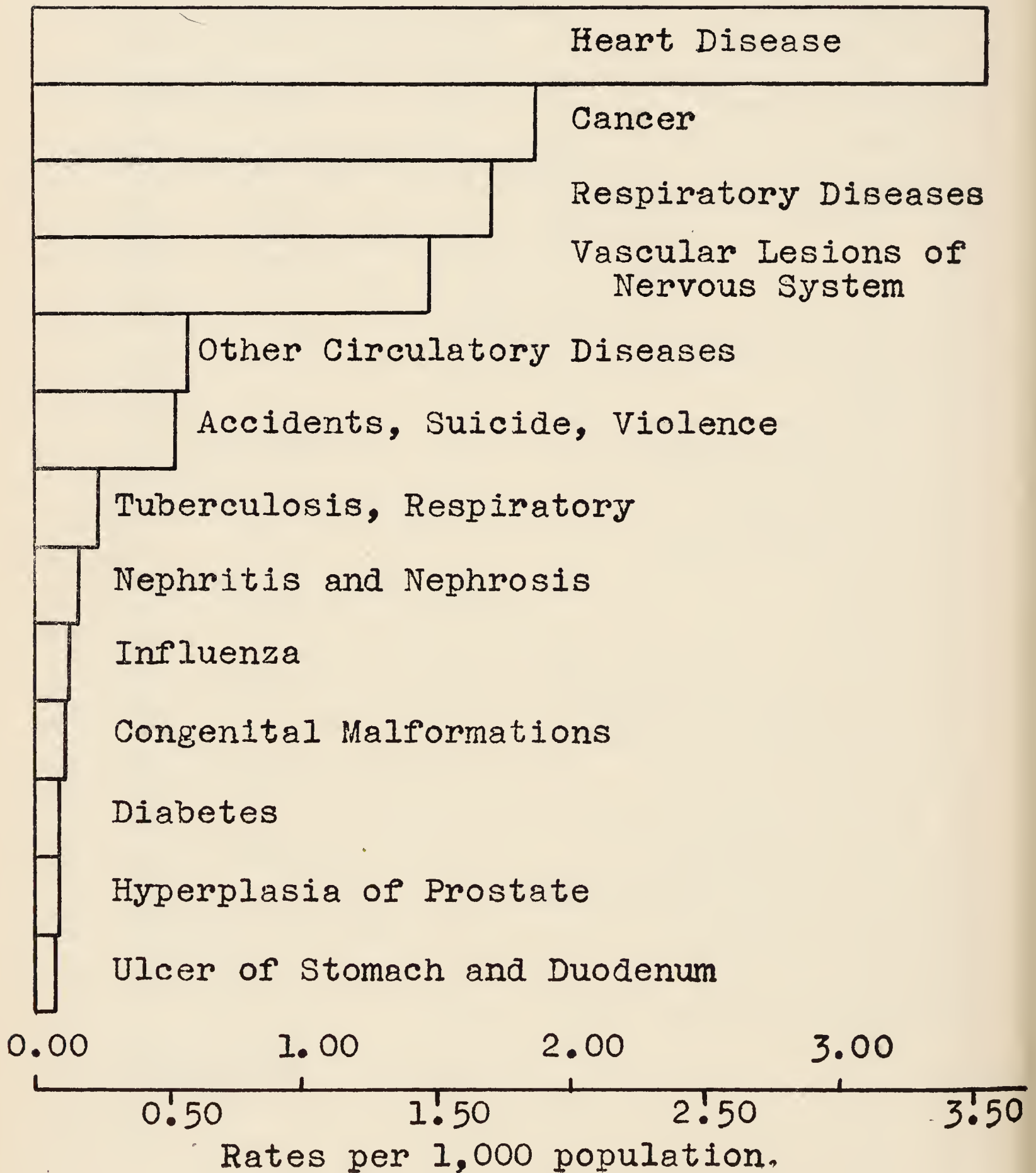
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953.—*continued.*

[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH WITH DEATH RATES, 1953.

DISEASE						No. of Deaths.	Rate.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	...	...	...	20	.24
2.	Tuberculosis, Other...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
3.	Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	...	2	.02
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
6.	Meningococcal Infections ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis...	...	...	...	...	2	.02
8.	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	2	.02
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	...	...	...	34	.41
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus ...	...	...	...	...	29	.35
12.	„ „ Breast ...	...	...	...	...	20	.24
13.	„ „ Uterus ...	...	...	...	...	9	.11
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	...	...	...	...	64	.77
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	8	.10
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	...	123	1.48
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	...	...	114	1.37
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	13	.16
20.	Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	169	2.03
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	...	...	...	48	.57
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	11	.13
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	37	.44
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	92	1.11
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	13	.16
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	7	.08
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	14	.17
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	...	8	.10
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	...	...	...	1	.01
31.	Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	10	.12
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	103	1.24
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	9	.11
34.	All Other Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	24	.29
35.	Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	11	.13
36.	Homicide and Operations of War ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						1,001	12.02

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES—1953.



MORBIDITY

WIGAN AREA

The figures given below, compiled by the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance, indicate the number of persons applying for sickness benefit (first certificate only) week by week during the year 1953.

The accompanying graph indicates more clearly the seasonal variation and a comparison can be made with the figures for 1952.

Incidence of Sickness—Working Population, 1953.

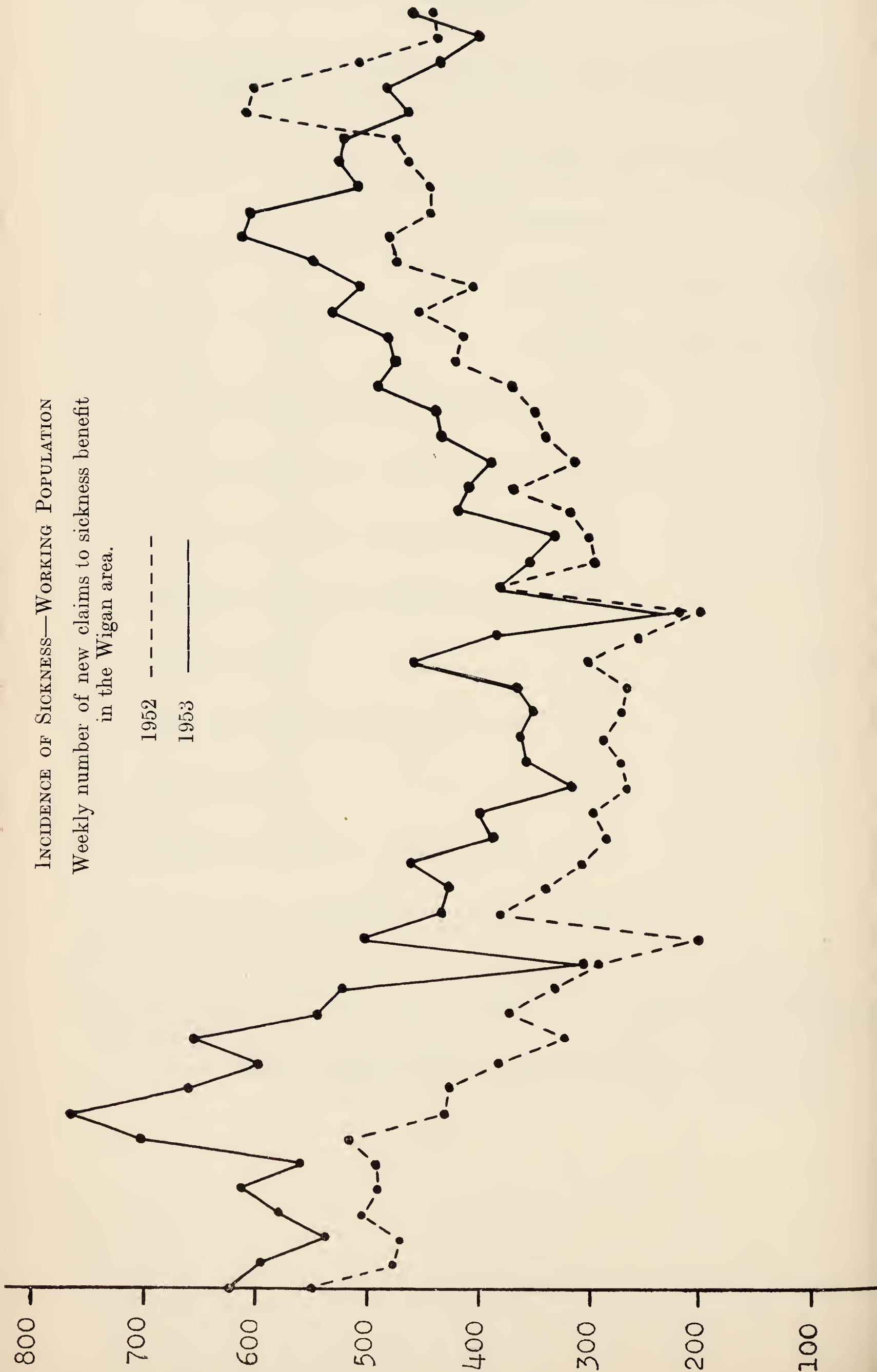
Jan.	6th	....	625	July	7th	....	380
„	13th	....	596	„	14th	....	213
„	20th	....	538	„	21st	....	378
„	27th	....	579	„	28th	....	350
Feb.	3rd	....	613	Aug.	4th	....	329
„	10th	....	558	„	11th	....	414
„	17th	....	712	„	18th	....	405
„	24th	....	764	„	25th	....	385
Mar.	3rd	....	660	Sept.	1st	....	431
„	10th	....	597	„	8th	....	435
„	17th	....	654	„	15th	....	486
„	24th	....	542	„	22nd	....	469
„	31st	....	522	„	29th	....	478
April	7th	....	301	Oct.	6th	....	526
„	14th	....	498	„	13th	....	499
„	21st	....	431	„	20th	....	545
„	28th	....	424	„	27th	....	608
May	5th	....	461	Nov.	3rd	....	600
„	12th	....	385	„	10th	....	502
„	19th	....	395	„	17th	....	519
„	26th	....	323	„	24th	....	515
June	2nd	....	353	Dec.	1st	....	457
„	9th	....	360	„	8th	....	476
„	16th	....	346	„	15th	....	429
„	23rd	....	361	„	22nd	....	392
„	30th	....	455	„	29th	....	452

Average weekly—475.

The increase of almost a hundred cases per week over the figures for 1952 are partly accounted for by the fact that the winter of 1952 was particularly 'light,' the rest of the year following the usual trend, but on a lower level. On the other hand the winter of 1953 led to heavier demands for benefit due to Colds and Influenza in almost half the cases. The sudden drop in applications at holiday periods are due more to the failure of the offices to handle all claims during the period and a correct interpretation at these times can be obtained by averaging over a period of three weeks.

INCIDENCE OF SICKNESS—WORKING POPULATION
Weekly number of new claims to sickness benefit
in the Wigan area.

1952 - - - - -
1953 —————



POPULATION OF WARDS, WITH COMPARATIVE DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.

<i>Ward</i>					<i>Ward No.</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Death Totals</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
St. George	...	...	...	...	1	2472	28	11.33
Lindsay	...	...	...	...	2	4688	39	8.32
St. Catharine	...	...	...	...	3	5399	57	10.56
St. Patrick	...	...	...	...	4	6115	64	10.47
St. Thomas	...	...	...	...	5	2435	30	12.32
Poolstock	...	...	...	...	6	3655	41	11.22
Victoria	...	...	...	...	7	2834	31	10.94
St. Andrew	...	...	...	...	8	16239	327	20.14
Swinley	...	...	...	...	9	10167	104	10.23
All Saints	...	...	...	...	10	2181	18	8.25
West Pemberton	...	...	...	...	11	6552	47	7.17
North Pemberton	...	...	...	...	12	6450	62	9.61
Central Pemberton	...	...	...	...	13	9281	101	10.88
South Pemberton	...	...	...	...	14	4792	39	8.14
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	...	83,260	988	11.87

Estimated population of Wards is based on current Register of Electors.
Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated population
of 83,260.

CRUDE DEATH RATES FOR WIGAN DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
12.92	11.42	11.55	13.37	11.55	12.49	12.57	14.54	13.15	12.02

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE

(Classified locally under the Registrar-General's
causation, age and

CAUSES OF DEATHS	Class No.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District								
		All Ages	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	20	—	—	—	—	9	8	3	—
Tuberculosis, Other	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Measles	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	9	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	10	35	—	—	—	—	1	19	9	6
" " Lung Bronchus	11	29	—	—	—	—	—	20	8	1
" " Breast	12	16	—	—	—	—	1	13	2	—
" " Uterus	13	9	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	—
Other Malig. & Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	14	65	—	1	—	—	6	28	19	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	15	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diabetes	16	7	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	17	114	—	—	—	—	5	29	52	28
Coronary Disease, Angina	18	101	—	—	—	—	2	38	36	25
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	19	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Other Heart Disease	20	181	—	—	—	—	3	24	57	97
Other Circulatory Disease	21	52	—	—	—	—	1	6	21	24
Influenza	22	13	—	—	—	—	5	3	2	3
Pneumonia	23	37	11	1	—	—	1	7	6	11
Bronchitis	24	91	1	—	—	—	3	27	28	32
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	25	15	—	—	—	—	4	5	5	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	26	6	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	27	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	28	11	—	—	—	1	—	5	3	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	29	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	30	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	31	10	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	32	110	24	—	1	4	2	21	19	39
Motor Vehicle Accidents... ..	33	9	—	2	—	1	2	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	34	27	2	—	—	1	3	7	6	8
Suicide	35	10	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	1
Homicide and Operations of War	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		988	49	5	1	7	58	282	288	298

52 WEEKS ENDED 26th DECEMBER, 1953.

short list—grouped according to
ward residence)

DEATHS AT ALL AGES

Class No.	St. George Ward 1	Lindsay Ward 2	St. Catharine Ward 3	St. Patrick Ward 4	St. Thomas Ward 5	Poolstock Ward 6	Victoria Ward 7	St. Andrew Ward 8	Swinley Ward 9	All Saints Ward 10	West Pem- berton Ward 11	North Pem- berton Ward 12	Central Pem- berton Ward 13	South Pem- berton Ward 14	Total Deaths
1	—	2	2	2	—	—	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	20
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
10	2	3	1	2	1	—	1	12	4	1	3	2	3	—	35
11	1	—	2	3	—	2	—	10	3	1	2	1	3	1	29
12	2	1	1	3	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	16
13	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	1	1	1	—	9
14	4	3	6	5	1	5	—	15	9	2	—	4	8	3	65
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
16	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	7
17	2	5	6	5	5	2	1	49	15	1	2	8	10	3	114
18	3	7	6	9	5	5	—	24	10	3	4	6	11	8	101
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
20	2	3	7	7	6	8	8	84	20	—	7	12	14	3	181
21	2	2	4	2	—	—	1	27	4	—	1	2	3	4	52
22	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	4	1	1	1	—	1	1	13
23	—	3	1	3	1	2	5	8	1	—	3	2	4	4	37
24	6	2	5	6	2	5	4	30	5	2	4	4	14	2	91
25	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	6	2	—	1	1	1	1	15
26	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	6
27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
28	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	1	2	—	11
29	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
31	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	10
32	2	3	7	9	5	5	4	28	15	3	9	8	8	4	110
33	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	—	9
34	—	1	1	2	1	—	2	8	3	—	2	—	5	2	27
35	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	10
36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	39	57	64	30	41	31	327	104	18	47	62	101	39	988

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN RESPIRATORY DISEASES

COMPARATIVE RATES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

BRONCHITIS

				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	....	....	....	110	99	118	86	92
Rates	....	....	....	1.30....	1.16	1.40	1.03	1.11

PNEUMONIA

				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	....	....	....	50	36	46	46	37
Rates	....	....	....	0.59	0.42	0.55	0.55	0.44

OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS

				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	....	....	....	13	11	16	11	13
Rates	....	....	....	0.15	0.13	0.19	0.13	0.16

TOTAL FROM ALL RESPIRATORY CAUSES

				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	....	....	....	173	146	180	143	142
Rates	....	....	....	2.04	1.71	2.14	1.71	1.71

CANCER

				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	....	....	....	147	141	155	155	156
Rates	....	....	....	1.74	1.67	1.84	1.85	1.88

NO. OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1896—1953

1896—1900	137	1926—1930	410
1901—1905	179	1931—1935	538
1906—1910	223	1936—1940	586
1911—1915	276	1941—1945	609
1916—1920	308	1946—1950	669
1921—1925	347	1951—1953	466
		(three years)	

LOCALISATION OF DISEASE, NUMBER OF DEATHS AND RATE PER 1,000
POPULATION ANNUALLY FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

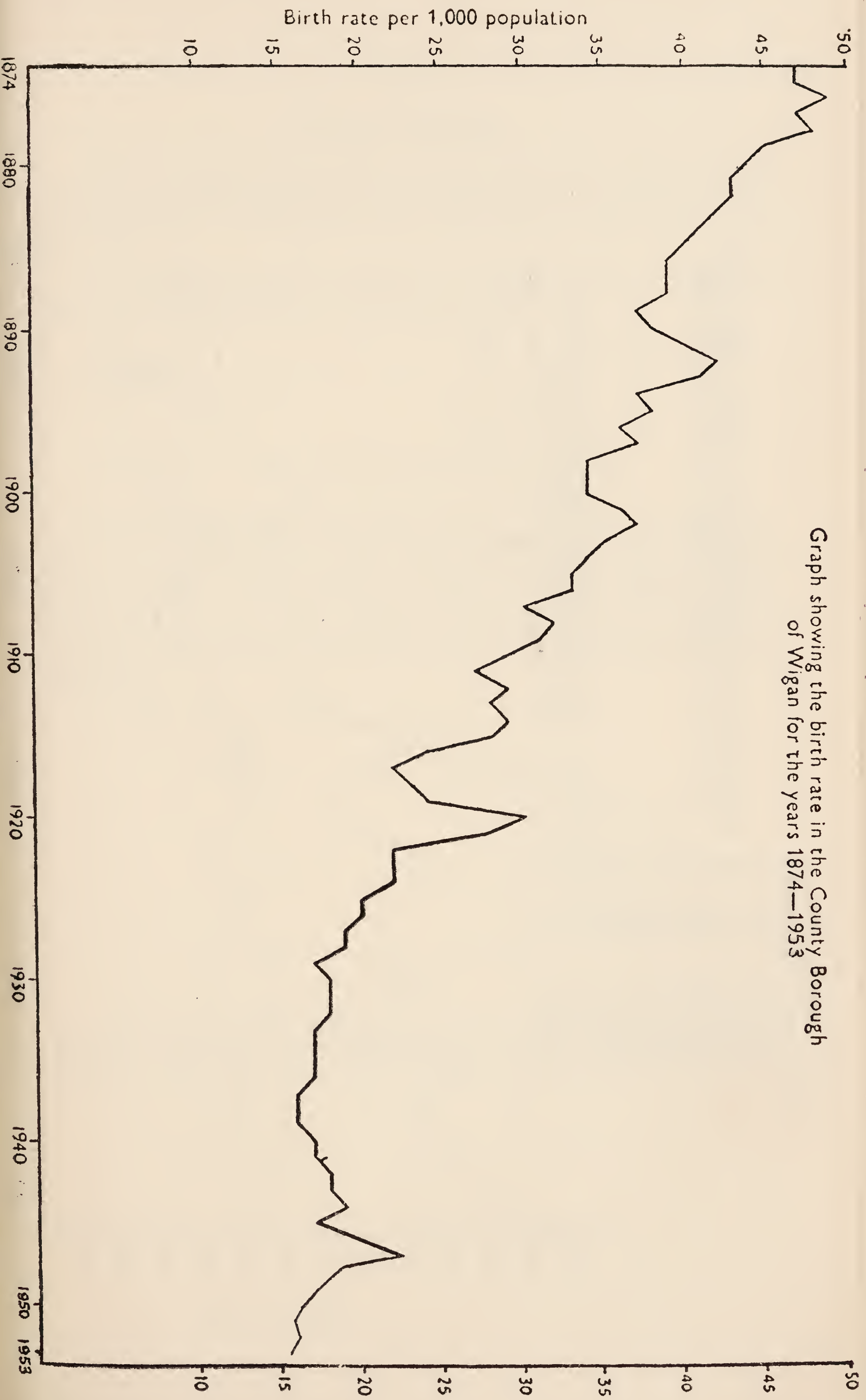
	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	9	.11	5	.06	6	.07	6	.07	5	.06	5	.06								
Uterus ...	7	.09	6	.08	3	.04	6	.07	9	.11	7	.08	4	.05	4	.05	12	.14	9	.11
Stomach and Duodenum ...	21	.27	24	.30	22	.26	31	.37	23	.27	32	.38	27	.32	29	.34	29	.35	34	.41
Breast ...	14	.18	16	.20	11	.14	14	.17	13	.15	16	.19	15	.18	22	.26	13	.16	20	.2
Lung, bronchus													20	.24	19	.23	27	.32	29	.35
Other sites ...	78	.99	66	.84	79	.95	74	.88	79	.94	87	1.03	75	.88	81	.96	74	.88	64	.77
Total deaths from cancer	129	1.54	117	1.48	121	1.46	131	1.56	129	1.53	147	1.74	141	1.67	155	1.84	155	1.85	156	1.88
Total deaths All Causes	1014	12.92	903	11.42	957	11.55	1125	13.37	975	11.55	1059	12.49	1068	12.57	1224	14.54	1100	13.15	1001	12.02

NOTE.—Deaths from Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus are included in 'other sites' from 1950.
Deaths from Cancer of the Lung, bronchus are included in 'other sites' to 1949.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1953. NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS PERIODS
UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

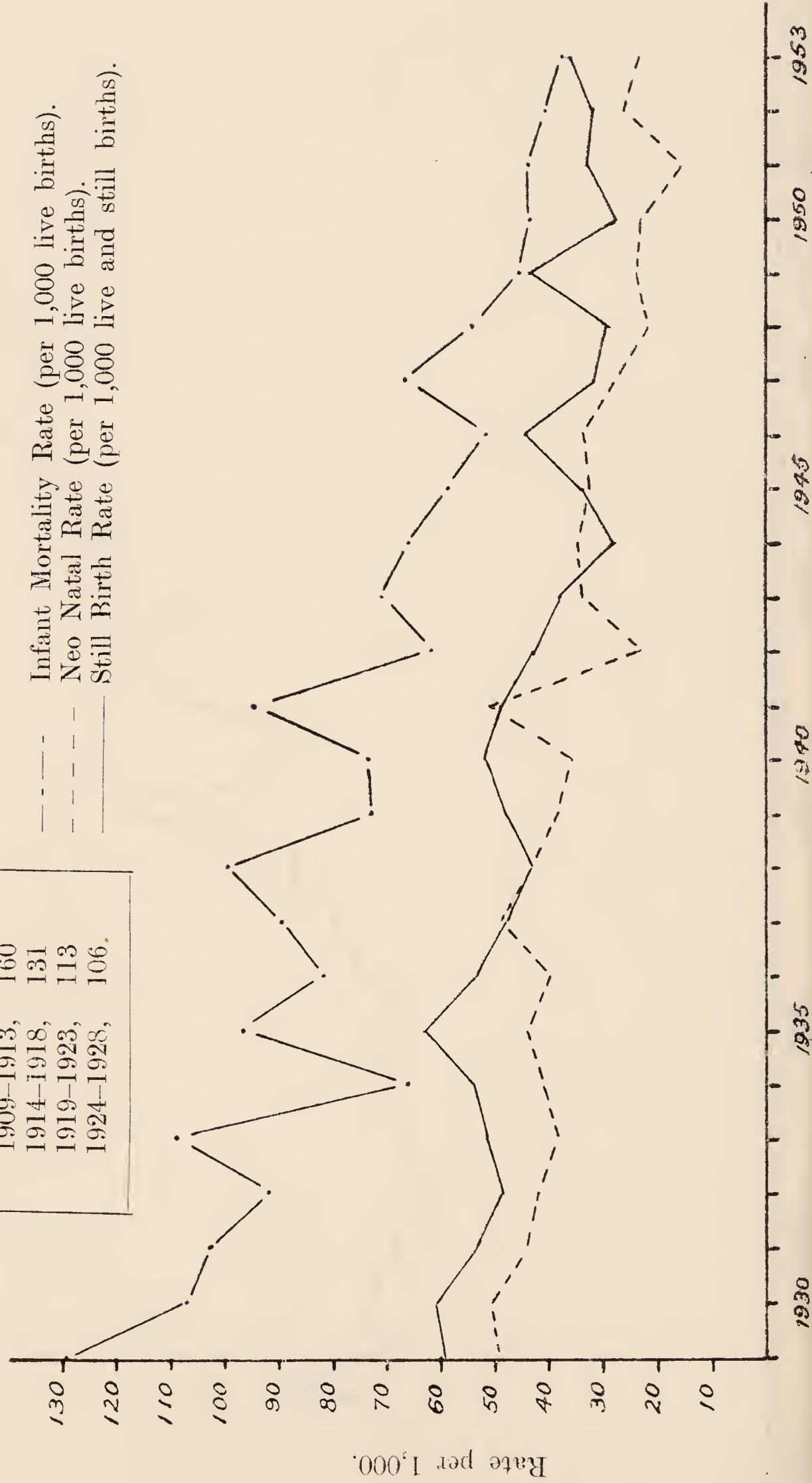
Class No.	CAUSE OF DEATH	Un- der 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7- 13 days	14- 20 days	21- 28 days	28 days to 2 mths	2 mths	3 mths	4 mths	5 mths	6 mths	7 mths	8 mths	9 mths	10 mths	11 mths	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
3	Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
23	Pneumonia	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	11
24	Bronchitis... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
27	Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
31	Congenital Malformations ...	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases:																						
	Prematurity	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
	Prematurity and twin birth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Prematurity with other causes	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Other misc. causes	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
34	Asphyxia due to regurgitation of food	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
		15	6	2	1	—	—	—	4	1	1	1	6	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	—	—	49

Graph showing the birth rate in the County Borough
of Wigan for the years 1874—1953



Infant Mortality Rate 5-year periods, 1874-1928.	
1874-1878,	200
1879-1883,	177
1884-1888,	171
1889-1893,	184
1894-1898,	175
1899-1903,	184
1904-1908,	165
1909-1913,	160
1914-1918,	131
1919-1923,	113
1924-1928,	106.

GRAPH showing the INFANT MORTALITY AND STILL BIRTH RATES
in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1929-1953.



INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year is 49, or 37.6 per 1,000 births, and of children over one year and under five years 5, or 0.06 per 1,000 of the population. (In 1952 there were 55 deaths under one year, a rate of 40.8 per 1,000).

The Neo-Natal death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births on or before the 28th day of life) was 23.02. The actual numbers :—

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	12	17	29
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	12	18	30

Of these 24, *i.e.*, 80% died during the first week of life.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 37.6 is the lowest recorded and indicates that the downward trend is continuing. It follows closely the national rate but at a substantially higher level. This would seem to indicate that the factors operating over the country as a whole, *i.e.*, readily available medical attention and a good level of nutrition are equally effective in the highly industrialised Borough but the difference between the local and national rates represents the part played by environment and the social structure of the population.

The infant deaths occurred as follows :—

HOME	HOSPITAL, ETC.
11	24 Billinge
—	7 R.A.E. Infirmary
—	4 Whelley
—	1 Ellesmere Rd. Nursery
—	1 Sandbrook Nursing Home
—	1 Royal Manchester
	Children's Hopsital
49 TOTAL.	

Prematurity remains as the greatest single cause of death (17), whilst pneumonia claimed 11 and congenital malformations 8. An analysis of live premature births is set out in the following table

ANALYSIS OF LIVE PREMATURE BIRTHS, 1953

Weight at Birth	Born at Home and nursed at Home			Born at Home and transferred to Hospital			Born in hospital			Born in Maternity Home		
	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days
3lbs. 4ozs. or less (1500 gms. or less)	3	1	1	1	—	—	21	10	8	—	—	—
Over 3lbs. 4ozs. up to 4lbs. 6ozs. (1500—2000 gms.)	4	—	4	1	—	1	23	1	20	1	—	—
Over 4lbs. 6ozs. up to 4lbs. 15ozs. (2000—2250 gms.)	3	—	3	1	—	1	16	2	14	—	—	—
Over 4lbs. 15ozs. up to 5lbs. 8ozs. (2250—2500 gms.)	15	—	15	1	—	1	29	1	28	1	—	1
	25			4			89			2		

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Maternal Deaths :—

One death was recorded, as follows :—

Acute endocarditis following septic abortion. P.M. Inquest.

The Maternal Mortality Rate (*i.e.*, the number of deaths of women in, or associated with childbirth, per 1,000 births, live and still) was 0.74.

Comparative figures for the last five years :—

				1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	....	....	....	3	....	1	....	1
Rate	....	....	....	1.98	....	0.71	....	0.74
Births	....	....	....	1,443	....	1,366	....	1,303

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

(Wigan residents only).

The number of inquests held during 1953 was 83, and the following verdicts have been recorded :—

1. Natural Causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
2. Accidents—Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Falls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
,, Fall, shock and burns	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Colliery	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
,, Road	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
,, Coal Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Operation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
,, Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
3. Suicides—Coal gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
,, Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
4. Open—Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Coal gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Fall	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
5. Manslaughter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
6. Murder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
								—
								83
								==

There was no uncertified death in 1953.

Section III

National Health Service Act, 1946

Provision of
Health Services

CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

The undermentioned Centres are open on the days and at the times stated :—

CENTRE.	DAYS OPEN.
WIGAN CENTRAL CLINIC, Millgate.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 4-30 p.m.</p> <p>Ante-natal Clinic : Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month.</p> <p>Post-natal Clinic : Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Dental Clinic for expectant and nursing mothers and young children : Tuesday morning, 9-30 a.m.</p> <p>Class for expectant mothers : Friday afternoon, 2 p.m.</p>
PEMBERTON CLINIC : 15, Billinge Road.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Friday afternoons, 2 to 4-30 p.m.</p> <p>Ante-natal Clinic : Thursday afternoon, 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month.</p>
SCHOLES CLINIC : St. Catherine's Mission, Platt Lane.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Monday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m.</p>
WORSLEY MESNES CLINIC : Methodist Church, Poolstock Lane.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.</p>
SPRINGFIELD CLINIC : St. Andrew's Church House, Woodhouse Lane.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m.</p>
LAMBERHEAD GREEN CLINIC : Methodist Church, Fleet Street.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday mornings at 9-30 a.m.</p>
GOOSE GREEN CLINIC : Methodist Church, Northumberland Street.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m.</p>
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC : Wigan Central Clinic, Millgate.	<p>Open each Monday morning. Surgeon attends twice monthly. Cases from Ince, Hindley and Standish also attend,</p>

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Two ante-natal clinics are held each week—one in the Clinic, Millgate, the other in Billinge Road, Pemberton. An Assistant Medical Officer conducts each clinic and a Consultant attends at each on one session per month. The midwives attend in turn and are encouraged to bring their booked cases.

	WIGAN CENTRE		PEMBERTON	
	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic
Number of Primary Cases attending Clinic during year	385	2	173	77
Total number of attendances	1,679	146	870	428

CLASSES FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

A mothercraft training and exercise class for expectant primiperae meets at the Central Clinic each week. It is conducted by a Health Visitor and the Supervisor of Midwives. 49 classes were held during the year 1953 and 618 attendances were made by mothers.

Routine chest X-ray of expectant mothers has not yet been developed but blood-testing for the rhesus factor and the Wasserman or Kahn reactions is part of the routine examination of ante-natal patients. Some general practitioners send their patients to have this procedure carried out at the clinics. Iron therapy in the form of Fersolate tablets is available and a supply of welfare orange juice and vitamins may also be obtained from the clinics. Maternity outfits are available for domestic confinements and are under the charge of the non-medical supervisor of midwives. The midwife engaged is responsible for ensuring that each of her patients is provided with an outfit.

POST-NATAL CLINICS.

For post-natal care two sessions per month are held at one centre, each alternate session being attended by a consultant. Domiciliary cases where no doctor was engaged and cases delivered in hospital may attend for examination. 173 new cases were examined during the year and there were 52 return cases, a total of 225.

CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

There is one residential home in Wigan for expectant and nursing unmarried mothers. It is under the control of the Liverpool Diocesan Church Council but is not restricted to Church of England members and the local authority pay a substantial amount yearly towards its maintenance. The local health authority clinics are available to the inmates and full advantage is taken of these facilities.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The local authority has provided six child welfare centres, at which one clinic is held each week. Each is in the charge of a Health Visitor and an Assistant Medical Officer attends at each session. During the year attendances were as follows :—

CLINIC	Children			Primary cases	Cases examined by medical attendant	Mothers Attend'g
	under 12 mths.	over 12 mths.	Total			
Central	2419	637	3056	317	1479	2826
Scholes	1177	553	1730	151	1098	1523
Pemberton	1735	805	2540	271	1172	2307
Worsley Mesnes	805	412	1217	86	581	1086
Springfield	1719	589	2308	171	809	2118
Drummond Square	1039	858	1897	121	747	1582
TOTALS	8894	3854	12748	1117	5886	11442

Comparative attendances for the last 5 years :

INFANTS :	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Total Attendances	9743	.... 9752	.... 10936	.... 11328	.... 12748
Primary Attendances	1118	.... 1153	.... 1368	.... 1179	.... 1117
Expectant Mothers :					
Central :					
Weekly Clinic	2167	.... 1767	.... 1775	.... 1879	.... 1679
Special Clinic	181	.... 166	.... 187	.... 168	.... 146
Pemberton :					
Weekly Clinic	720	.... 864	.... 831	.... 847	.... 870
Special Clinic	386	.... 328	.... 372	.... 353	.... 428

Although the numbers of mothers and children attending at the Worsley Mesnes Clinic are smaller than at any of the others it does fulfil a useful purpose. Without it mothers in the Worsley Mesnes area would have to travel by bus, either to Millgate or to Billinge Road, Pemberton.

The clinic at Drummond Square is housed in the Boys' Club, a hutted structure which is very cold during the winter months. All attempts to heat this building adequately have failed and a search is being made for alternative premises in this area.

No consultant attends at the child welfare centres but cases are referred from them to the Paediatrician at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. A Health Visitor attends the Paediatric Clinic at the Infirmary weekly as liaison officer and adviser on the social aspects of the cases. Cases are also referred to the Infirmary for orthoptic treatment.

Orthopaedic treatment and speech therapy are available at the local authority's clinic in Millgate.

DENTAL CARE AND TREATMENT.

I am indebted to the Principal School Dental Officer for the following summary of the dental work carried out during the year for the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

Similar facilities have been available as in previous years for the examination and dental treatment of expectant mothers and also for children under five years of age.

Two sessions each week are devoted by the School Dentist for this work, every effort being made to ensure that all persons who attend the ante-natal clinics receives a dental inspection. At times there is a reluctance to accept dental treatment during the period of pregnancy, but the inspection provides an invaluable opportunity for giving instruction and stressing the value of oral hygiene.

Children of pre-school age are referred by the Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors in the course of their normal duties at child welfare centres and nurseries. When required radiography is undertaken by the X-ray Department of the Chest Clinic in Millgate. The services of a consultant orthodontic surgeon are available in the Department and cases requiring specialist treatment may be referred to the consultant dental surgeon at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Analysis of Priority Dental Care.

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	181	103	82
Children under five	62	49	46

Forms of dental treatment provided :—

	Ex-trac-tions	Anaesthetics		Fill-ings	Scaling or Scaling and gum treat-ment	Silver Nitrate treat-ment	Dress-ings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	Gen-eral						Com-plete	Par-tial
Expectant and Nursing mothers	29	29	—	55	58	—	—	—	—	—
Children under five	20	20	—	20	26	6	—	—	—	—

In addition to the above, 312 children under five years of age were inspected under the School Dental Service,

NURSERY

The 24-hour Nursery provided by the Local Authority is situated at Ellesmere Road, Pemberton, and has accommodation for 52 children during the day and 17 at night.

The Nursery is recognised as a Training Nursery for the National Nursery Examination Board Certificate for Nursery Nurses. During the year three students were presented and passed the examination.

The demand for admission of children to the nursery continues and there are approximately 50 applicants on the waiting list. An extension of the existing nursery with accommodation for 15 extra children is in course of construction. This will provide an additional nursery room, thus ensuring a more reasonable segregation of the children into three age groups. Hitherto only two nursery rooms were available.

The revised charges made by the local authority as a sequel to Ministry of Health circular 23/52 have not caused any real diminution in the numbers of children attending. The revised charges were set out in full in the report for 1952, and remain unchanged.

The average attendances during the year were :

	DAY	NIGHT
	(including those who remain at night)	
Children under 2 years of age	16	8
Children between 2 and 5 years	24	2
TOTALS	<u>40</u>	<u>10</u>

NURSERY AND CHILD MINDERS' REGULATION ACT, 1948.

There are no industrial nurseries in the area but one person is registered as a child minder. Regular visits have been paid by the department to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

The authority is sympathetic towards the dissemination of information regarding infertility and the spacing of families, and grants the use of the premises in Millgate to the Wigan Branch of the Family Planning Association. An evening session is held once each week and is well attended. The average attendance per session being 9 new cases and 14 return cases. For lay staff the clinic relies on voluntary workers from the association. In addition specially trained women doctors and nurses are employed at each session. This service although not in any way advertised in the public press is becoming more popular.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

The present establishment of the service comprises a non-medical Supervisor and 13 Municipal Midwives.

The total number of cases attended by them during the year was 722 as compared with 708 in 1952. The midwives acted as maternity nurses in 157 cases. The average number of cases attended by each was 56. Although the doctor was engaged in 66% of the cases he was present at the delivery of only 22%.

Booking for confinement in hospital is restricted to certain categories of patients, *i.e.*, where there is some obstetrical abnormality ; for primiparae who seek admission, for cases where there is some associated medical condition and for those whose home conditions are unsuitable. The supervisor of midwives visits the homes of all who apply on social grounds and there is good co-operation in this direction between the hospital, the general practitioners and the clinics.

The midwives are on duty by rota at the ante-natal clinics. This helps to keep them up-to-date in modern methods and also gives them an opportunity of having their clinical findings confirmed.

At the ante-natal clinics 230 samples of blood were taken for Wasserman reaction and 379 for the rhesus factor.

MEDICAL AID.

By the rules of the Central Midwives Board, midwives are required to send for medical aid under conditions and for reasons which are specified. Medical aid was summoned in 148 cases—in 136 cases for the mother alone and in 12 cases for the child alone.

ANALGESIA AND ANAESTHESIA.

A Gas and Air Analgesia Service is provided by the Department and all the municipal midwives are qualified to administer analgesia.

Six outfits are available and they are transported to and from the homes of the patients by the Ambulance Service.

The popularity of this service is increasing slowly, 62% of cases having availed themselves of it.

Pethidine was introduced during the year and all midwives were instructed in its use. It was administered in 91 cases.

The midwives advise all their patients on the advantages of having analgesia unless it is contra indicated on medical grounds.

TRANSPORT OF MIDWIVES.

Midwives are allowed to use the Corporation's bus services free of charge. At such times as the buses are not available they may call on the ambulance service for transport by car.

MATERNITY HOMES.

The Christopher Home, administered by the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee, is the only Nursing or Maternity Home within the Borough. Six beds are available for maternity cases and during the year there were 43 Wigan births in the Home.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Year	No. Notified	Cases at Home.	Treated : in Hospital	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.
1953	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	—	—	—	—	—	—
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950	1	1	—	1	—	—
1949	—	—	—	—	—	—

EMERGENCY OBSTETRICAL UNIT.

By arrangement with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee a mobile Obstetrical Unit based on Billinge Hospital is available for cases of obstetrical emergency occurring within the Borough. The unit, composed of an obstetrician and an experienced hospital nurse, along with equipment for blood transfusion, is transported to the home by the Borough Ambulance Service. The service was used only once during the year. The emergency was a case of P.P.H., and the patient made a good recovery.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The number of premature infants (*i.e.*, weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth) notified during the year was 120; of these 32 were born at home and 88 in hospital.

The early care of the premature infants born at home is undertaken by two midwives who have shown special aptitude for this work.

The arrangement is that on receiving information of the birth the "premature baby" midwife takes over the case entirely and attends both mother and baby. Visits are paid daily or more often if necessary, special attention being given to the feeding and handling of the baby. Special equipment in the form of a draught-proof cot with bedding and hot-water bottles is available on loan.

Daily record charts are made out for each infant and these are made available to the doctor attending the cases.

The intensive visiting is continued during the first month or until such time as baby has attained normal standards. By these means the mother is given every opportunity of learning how to handle and tend the infant.

During the year, 33 premature babies received this concentrated attention. The results are very good and fully justify the time devoted to them.

It is interesting to record that although in Wigan there is a high incidence of premature births, those infants who survive the first week of life on the whole do well.

RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA.

One case of Retroleental Fibroplasia occurred in a premature infant. The baby was born in hospital and weighed only 3 lbs. 1 oz. at birth. Oxygen was given over a period of ten days. The baby was ten weeks old before being discharged home.

HEALTH VISITING

Summary of visits during the year 1953 :

No. of primary visits to births	....	....	....	....	....	....	1356
„ visits to infants under one year			....	....	....	....	7460
„ „ infants over one year and under two years					....	....	4158
„ „ infants over two and under three years					....	....	3537
„ „ infants over three and under four years					....	....	2618
„ „ infants over four years and under five					....	....	2816
„ „ expectant mothers		....	....	....	....	....	90
„ „ cases of infectious disease			....	....	....	....	779
„ „ <i>re</i> deaths under one year	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
„ „ abortions	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ still births	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
„ Other visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	803

The number of Health Visitors was increased to seven during the year but three more are urgently required.

One student health visitor passed the examination for the Health Visitor's Certificate and was accepted on the staff from August.

During the year, four student Health Visitors from the Bolton Training School have received practical training in the Department.

A Health Visitor continues to attend the Out-patient Paediatric Clinic held each week at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. This has proved to be a valuable link between the home and the hospital as the Department is able to advise the specialist on the social and environmental aspects of cases. Also, the Health Visitor, having first-hand knowledge of the treatment recommended, can help the mother to carry it out in the home.

As a result of the addition to the staff the number of home visits has been substantially increased.

Two Clinic Nurses, one a trained nurse and one an enrolled assistant nurse, give part-time help at the Infant Clinics. They release the Health Visitors from minor routine duties so that their specialist knowledge can be used to the best advantage.

The infant mortality rate in Wigan as compared with the general rate for the country is 37.6, against 26.8. The urgent need to intensify the education of mothers in the matter of child care continues and instruction at clinics by means of film strips is proving popular.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948

The closest liaison is maintained with the Children's Department and co-operation on the lines of the Home Office circular 193/49 is well established.

The Medical Officer of Health has been appointed medical adviser to the Children's Committee and is responsible for certain aspects of the medical care of children who are the responsibility of the Committee. This includes medical advice on administrative matters and in the planning and management of the nurseries, etc. Medical and dental examination of children who are to be boarded out is undertaken by the Department and weekly visits are paid by an assistant medical officer of health to the residential nursery at The Elms.

Health Visitors undertake visits to the homes of foster mothers and prospective adopters. Reports of the conditions found are furnished to the Children's Officer.

CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

The local authority have implemented the recommendations contained in circular 78/50 and designated the Medical Officer of Health as the officer responsible for liaison and co-ordination in matters affecting children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

The Council also appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Children's, Education, Estates and Health Committees to determine questions of a special nature on the subject of the circular at elected representative level.

During the year it has not been found necessary to call this Committee but many cases have been dealt with at officer level with encouraging results.

As most problem families seem eventually to become unhoused and gravitate to the Welfare Home for temporary accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the policy of the Health Committee to set up nine family units of accommodation at the Welfare Home will no doubt ease the problem considerably. It is anticipated that this accommodation will be ready for occupation early in 1954.

HOME NURSING

The Home Nursing Service has continued to function from the Nurses' Home, New Market Street. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining nurses who are willing to be resident in the home. At present only the Superintendent, her deputy and one nurse are in residence. The opportunity has been taken to offer accommodation in the building to other members of the Health Department staff, and this has helped to keep the costs of running the home within reasonable limits. In the interests of further economy the possibility of running the service on a wholly non-resident basis from the Health Department is being considered. The building in New Market Street would then be converted into flats for the use of nursing and other staff of the Department.

A great deal of the time of the nursing staff is spent pedalling bicycles up and down the streets from house to house. This is of course at the expense of their professional work at the bedside. As the new housing estates on the Pemberton side of the town are filling up this problem is being greatly accentuated. Towards the end of the year the Health Committee purchased two Ford Popular cars to help relieve the situation. The delivery of these cars coincided with the shortage of nurses due to sickness and it was only their advent that enabled the service to fulfil all its commitments during the critical period.

The establishment remains as in previous years—one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent and eleven nurses, two of whom are male nurses.

The following is a record of the work done during 1953 :—

No. of cases on the books on 1st January, 1953	....	....	....	190
No. of new cases during 1953	....	....	....	1,700
No. of visits paid by the nurses	....	....	....	39,135
No. of cases ceased to be visited :—				
Now convalescent	....	....	....	671
Removed to hospital	....	....	....	206
Deaths	....	....	....	163
Other reasons	....	....	....	592
			—	1,632
No. of cases remaining on the books on the 31st December, 1953				258

A classification of cases attended during 1953 will be found as an appendix to this report on page 100.

REFRESHER COURSES.

One nurse is sent each year to a Refresher Course organised by the Queen's Institute of District Nurses. No arrangements exist for the local training of district nurses.

NURSING EQUIPMENT

A stock of nursing equipment and apparatus is provided at the Home in New Market Street. This service is available upon request to members of the public at any time during the day or evening and a nominal weekly charge is made as it has been found that without this the equipment is not returned in reasonable time.

VACCINATION

The Vaccination Acts, 1867-1907, which made vaccination against small-pox compulsory, were rescinded when the National Health Service Act 1946 came into operation on the 5th July, 1948.

The following vaccinations were carried out by medical practitioners during 1953 :—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 yrs. inclusive	5-14 yrs. inclusive	Over 15 yrs.	TOTAL
Primary	72	7	21	30	60	190
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	5	91	97
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	72	7	22	35	151	287
	==	==	==	==	==	==

72 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during the year. Comparing this figure with the number of births during the same period, it will be seen that only 5.5 per cent. of the infants were vaccinated.

This proportion is a decidedly low one, although it is no worse than the average annual figures since 1948, when the Vaccination Acts 1867-1907 were repealed. There is no doubt that a continuation of such a low vaccinal state constitutes a danger, as the epidemics in the cotton towns have shown during the last three years. Smallpox can occur in the community at any time and its

origins may be so nebulous that the best preventive action cannot become fully effective until a considerable proportion of the population have been placed at risk. It is with this in mind that the Health Committee have decided to extend their proposals under the National Health Service Act to enable their Medical Officers to undertake vaccination of infants and others in clinics and at schools and places of work. This should lead to a substantial increase in the numbers of those vaccinated, especially during infancy.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Preventive inoculation against Diphtheria has been offered in the Borough since December, 1936, for children of pre-school and school age.

Although the local health authority expend time and money on joining in with the national advertising campaigns, the Health Visitor with her personal approach is the spearhead of the drive for a high level of primary protection against Diphtheria, while the school nurse is in a unique position to coax the reluctant parent of the primary school child to agree to the child receiving a booster dose of prophylactic. The figures below, although not equal to those of 1952 due mainly to illness of staff, are maintaining the general level of the past five years. There is no doubt that the absence of the disease has lulled parents into a false sense of security. It is interesting to note that many who decry Diphtheria immunisation ask for details of protection against Pertussis.

With this in mind the Council have decided to offer a combined prophylactic, and this scheme will be put into operation as soon as the Minister's approval has been obtained.

Inoculations carried out during 1953 :—

				By M. & C.W. Clinic	By School Clinic	By Private Doctors	Total during 1953
Primary	....	....	....	482	252	146	880
Re-inoculation	....	....	....	1	964	48	1,013
TOTALS	....	....	....	483	1,216	194	1,893
<hr/>							
				Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total under 15 years
Estimated present child population							
immunised	....	....	....	28%	58%	57%	55%

AMBULANCE SERVICE

On the 1st April, 1953 the non-infectious service formerly operated by the Chief Fire Officer for the Health Committee, merged with the infectious service and the combined service became a section of the Health Department, being directly administered by the Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. T. A. Atherton, B.E.M. was appointed Ambulance Superintendent to be responsible for the day-to-day running of the service.

AMBULANCE STATION.

The new Ambulance Station situated in Pottery Road was occupied on the 20th September, 1953, and was officially opened by Councillor J. T. Lynch, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee on the 14th October, 1953. Prior to the occupation of the new station the service was operated from temporary accommodation in the grounds of the Welfare Home, Frog Lane.

PERSONNEL.

The establishment for the combined service is as follows :—

Amb. Supt.	Asst. Amb. Depot Supt.	Control/Asst.	Drv./Att. (Male)
1	1	4	25
Attendants (Male).	Handyman	Clerk/Storekeeper	
2	1	1	

FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS.

A total of 27 members of the staff re-qualified and one member successfully took the initial examination of the St. John Ambulance Association to render first aid to the injured.

VEHICLES.

A total of 8 Ambulances, 1 sitting case Ambulance and 1 car were available when the infectious and non-infectious services combined. Of these 2 Ambulances have been disposed of and have been replaced by 1 Daimler/Barker 27 h.p. Ambulance and 1 Bedford/Wilson & Stockhall sitting case Ambulance.

The age of the fleet by vehicles is as follows :—

No. of Vehicles	Age of Vehicle in years										
	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	Over 10 Years
	2	1	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—

All repairs and maintenance are carried out by the Transport Department and a comprehensive maintenance programme is regularly carried out on a mileage basis.

A total of 11,925 gallons of petrol and 142-5/8 gallons of oil have been consumed for a total of 164,586 miles run.

An analysis of these figures by vehicle is given at the end of this section.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The two Ford Popular Cars purchased for use by the Male Queens Nurses are garaged with Ambulance Service vehicles and the same arrangements for maintenance apply.

COMMUNICATIONS.

After a satisfactory trial period using Radio-telephone equipment it has been decided to instal one fixed and 10 mobile stations. The value of this equipment in operational control cannot be too highly stressed and any

financial saving effected must be considered secondary to the greater efficiency it brings to the service at times of greatest stress. Whilst no figure of nett saving can be quoted a very definite financial saving will be effected in time.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

Ambulance Section training has been carried out regularly since early in October, and an average attendance of six volunteers is usual.

The syllabus laid down has been completed and the section now looks forward to small demonstrations and exercises which have been arranged.

Driving instruction is carried out by service drivers in their off-duty periods and in all a total of 11 volunteers are receiving instruction.

CONCLUSIONS.

Throughout the year the service has been under constant re-organisation and therefore an appreciation of its results may not be available until next year.

Co-operation with the other essential services and adjoining Ambulance Authorities is maintained and a comprehensive plan for action in the event of a major disaster has been built up.

The year has been a successful one with many of the new systems instituted showing immediate results but with the emphasis on producing an efficient and economical service as a long-term policy.

PATIENTS CARRIED AND MILEAGE INCURRED DURING 1953 :

	Number of Patients			Total Mileage
Wigan County Borough	17,672	92,233
Lancashire County Council	6,220	57,163
Other Authorities	12	244
			<u>23,904</u>	<u>149,415</u>

ANALYSIS

	Wigan County Borough		Lancs. County Council	
	Patients Carried.	Mileage.	Patients Carried.	Mileage
Maternity....	486	5,579	205	3,107
Street Accidents....	335	1,294	98	796
Home Accidents....	103	415	29	172
Works Accidents	62	302	36	365
Street Illnesses	95	370	8	70
Home Illnesses	22	94	2	13
Works Illnesses	10	164	1	8
Authorised Officers	101	2,274	43	1,440
Infectious Diseases	508	2,731	91	2,386
National Coal Board	3	21	65	491
Deceased Persons	28	153	4	64
All Other Cases	15,919	78,836	5,638	48,251
	<u>17,672</u>	<u>92,233</u>	<u>6,220</u>	<u>57,163</u>

In addition the following work was carried out by the Ambulance Service :
Mileage.

Mentally Defective Children :					
Wigan County Borough ....	....	....	....	5,509	6,497
Lancashire County Council ....	....	....	....	317	603
Gas and Air Analgesia ....	....	....	....	625	2,087
Welfare Services ....	....	....	....	336	3,552
Service Journeys ....	....	....	....	281	875
Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee				—	105
					<u>13,719</u>

PETROL AND OIL CONSUMPTION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1953.

						Galls.
Petrol supplied by Wigan Fire Brigade ....	....	....	....	....	....	3,002
Petrol supplied by Wigan Transport Department....	....	....	....	....	....	8,769
Petrol supplied by Other Authorities ....	....	....	....	....	....	89
Petrol supplied to the Health Department Vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	311
TOTAL ....	....	....	....	....	....	<u>12,171</u>

Vehicle	Make	Registered Number	Mileage	Petrol Galls.	Oil Pints	Average M.P.G. M.P.P.	
1	Bedford	AEK 432	12,466	870	57	14.3	218
2	Bedford	JP 9609	16,979	1,272	105	13.2	161
3	Daimler	AJP 500	—	—	—	—	—
4	Bedford	JP 8560	24,091	1,671	199	14.4	121
5	Austin	JP 7252	19,502	1,680	69	12.2	282
6	Bedford	JP 8187	19,363	1,495	337	13.0	57.4
7	Bedford	JP 8879	19,678	1,492	120	13.2	163
8	Bedford	JP 8800	6,223	454	17	13.7	? 366
9	Austin	JP 3397	7,310	638	39	11.4	? 187
Car	Austin	AEK 319	26,218	1,454	113	18.0	232
*1	Austin	JP 9595	1,898	292	28	6.5	67
*3	Austin	JP 2001	9,631	853	99	11.2	97.2
			163,359	12,171	1,183	13.4	138

* Ambulances 1 and 3 are now obsolete.

Ambulances 8 and 9 oil issued in bulk, individual figures not available until April.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

HEALTH EDUCATION

Each month 1,150 copies of the journal " Better Health " are distributed in the district.

Classes for mothers are held each week at the Central Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Propaganda regarding Diphtheria immunisation has been carried out in conjunction with the National Campaign.

Efforts are being maintained to bring to the notice of the public, and especially to food handlers, the need for cleanliness and care in the preparation of food.

Measures for the dissemination of information to the public are being developed. They include publication of literature, display of posters, etc., and opportunities are taken to give lectures on various health subjects from time to time.

A subscription is paid each year by the Borough Council to the Central Council for Health Education. This enables us to receive from the Central Council much valuable help and information as to the best methods of approaching the public.

CONVALESCENCE.

During the year 1953, no case requiring convalescence was dealt with under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The treatment of Venereal Diseases is the responsibility of the Hospital service, and in Wigan the clinic is under the direction of Dr. Philip S. Silver, M.R.S., L.R.C.P. As the following table indicates the incidence of venereal diseases is rapidly decreasing and especially so in the case of syphilis.

NO. OF WIGAN CASES DEALT WITH FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE V.D.
TREATMENT CENTRES.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Syphilis	45	55	74	27	29	37	21	23	11	4
Gonorrhoea	79	55	113	49	29	33	22	9	9	13
Other Conditions	84	129	119	108	91	86	69	62	41	59
TOTAL	208	239	306	184	149	156	112	94	61	76

The Health Committee have continued their arrangements whereby the V.D. Orderly of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary undertakes the duties of Almoner.

Efforts are made to persuade persons who are a source of infection to attend for treatment at the centre. Contact is made with patients who fail to attend for treatment with a view to stressing the importance of continued attendance at the clinic. The work done by the Almoner has been found to produce satisfactory results.

The following is an extract from the Almoner's report for the year 1953 :—

Total number of contacts persuaded to attend were :—

Males 16 ; Females 28.

Patients failing to attend for treatment, etc., are the biggest problem, and the following action has been taken to try and persuade them to attend.

244 letters were sent to patients failing to attend.

182 reported for treatment, etc.

3 left district, present address unknown.

10 transferred to clinics near their present address.

3 letters received, patients too ill to attend.

2 patients admitted to other hospitals.

1 patient transferred to care of own doctor.

3 patients transferred to other clinics as in need of treatment, but not suffering from V.D.

3 patients transferred from other clinics.

3 patients died.

2 letters received, patients promised to attend.

Personal visits were made to the home addresses of 21 patients who failed to attend after several letters had been sent.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Statistical information regarding the prevalence of and mortality from tuberculosis will be found in that section of the Report dealing with infectious diseases.

The Tuberculosis Visitor is a full-time member of the Local Authority Health Visiting Staff, the work of this health visitor being divided between attendance with the Chest Physician at the Dispensary and visiting patients in their homes.

During the year, 1,617 home visits were paid by the tuberculosis health visitor.

The number of new contacts examined during the past three years was as follows :—

1951			1952			1953		
Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
89	232	321	153	186	339	125	135	260

Contacts of positive cases under supervision, 31st December, 1953 202

Contacts under supervision after B.C.G. inoculation 164

The average number of contacts per case of pulmonary T.B. is as follows :—

NOTIFICATIONS :			1951	1952	1953
Tuberculosis :	Pulmonary	....	73	56	67
	Other forms	....	21	15	16
No. of contacts per case (pulmonary only)			4.4	6.0	3.8

All cases of death from respiratory tuberculosis which remained un-notified during life are the subject of special contact investigations.

The responsibility of the Council for providing care and after-care services at present is being discharged through a voluntary Care Committee. The aims of this Committee may be stated as follows :—

1. To provide extra nourishments, nursing utensils, wheel chairs, etc.
2. To help in providing extra clothing needed by the patients, especially when they go into sanatorium and on their return home.
3. To visit and give friendly advice.
4. To assist in educating public opinion in matters of health in regard to Tuberculosis.
5. To give assistance in providing tools in cases where tuberculous persons entering into employment are not so assisted by the Ministry of Labour.

The Chest Physician acts as an honorary Medical Officer to this Committee.

HOUSING OF TUBERCULOUS CASES.

During the year 16 cases of Infectious Tuberculosis and 11 families residing in houses where this disease was known to exist were re-housed in accommodation which ensured adequate isolation. Visits were paid to a large number of dwellings following reports of suspected tuberculosis and a thorough investigation was carried out in each case.

In every instance contact was made with the Consultant Chest Physician who gave every assistance in arriving at a decision as to the degree of priority to be given in each case submitted to the Committee.

REHABILITATION.

Very few known sputum positive cases are actually employed in permanent positions, and constant supervision by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor ensures that these few do not become a danger to other susceptible groups.

Cases who are fit for light work are referred to the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer with suitable recommendation.

Patients have been admitted for training and colonization at Barrowmere Hall, the local health authority undertaking part maintenance.

BACILLE CALMETTE GUERIN VACCINATION.

At present this is limited to hospital staff, contacts and children of infected families. The Chest Physician has supplied the following figures showing the numbers dealt with during 1953 :

Children under 15 years of age :—

Total Number

Skin Patch tested	Doctors Requests	Contacts	Positive	Negative	B.C.G. Vaccinated
278	99	179	129	149	36

40 children were re-patchtested after B.C.G.—all showed a positive skin reaction.

Three adults were B.C.G. vaccinated.

These figures do not include work carried out amongst hospital staff.

MENTAL ILLNESS AND DEFECTIVENESS.

Details of work under this section are given under Mental Health Service, page 49.

OTHER ILLNESSES.

General practitioners are slow in taking advantage of the services available and few requests for after care have been made during the year.

MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE.

A Scheme (within the Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946) for the delivery of a mid-day meal to individuals, unable, because of illness or physical disability, to provide their own was put into operation in May, 1951.

At the commencement meals were delivered in the Scholes area and later the service was extended to other parts of the Borough.

Members of the Women's Voluntary Service take part in the delivery of the meals and we are much indebted to them for the service they have given.

The food is prepared in the kitchen of the Civic Restaurant and served in individual covered containers. The charge per meal is 1s. 4d., but in necessitous cases it is reduced to 10d.

6,905 meals were provided during the year.

A maximum of three meals per week are provided in each case and the service is greatly appreciated.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Three helps are employed full time and at the end of the year 23 part-time helps were on the register.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of families availing themselves of the Service. During 1953, domestic help was provided in 293 cases—58 confinements, 2 tuberculosis, 212 chronic sick including aged and infirm and 21 others—compared with a total of 250 in 1952.

The Service is operating very satisfactorily and along with the Home Nursing Service plays an important part in relieving the shortage of hospital beds especially for chronic cases.

MENTAL HEALTH

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Local Health Authority is responsible for the domiciliary Mental Health services.

The service includes :—

- (i) The ascertainment of cases of mental ill-health and mental deficiency in the community.
- (ii) The initial proceedings for obtaining detention and reception orders and transferring persons of unsound mind to establishments administered by the Regional Hospital Board.
- (iii) The statutory supervision, guardianship, provision of after-care, etc., of mental defectives, living in the community.
- (iv) The provision of occupational treatment for mental illness.
- (v) Preventive measures in connection with Mental Health.

ADMINISTRATION.

(a) The Health Committee is responsible for the control of this service and deals with all matters appertaining thereto. A special sub-committee has not been established.

(b) The Medical Officer of Health is the Executive Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health, together with Dr. E. R. M. Wilson, Assistant Medical Officer, and Dr. D. M. Mather, are appointed as approved medical practitioners for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defect under Sections 3 and 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The Medical Officer of Health, together with Dr. D. M. Mather, Medical Officer at Billinge Hospital, Dr. J. S. Mather and Dr. D. N. Mackinnon, general practitioners with extensive experience of mental illness, are appointed as approved for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defect under Section 1 (3) and 5 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Two full-time authorised officers and mental health visitors (one male and one female) and also one full-time male authorised officer and clerk are employed in the service. All have received special courses of instruction either before or subsequent to appointment.

A vacancy exists for a psychiatric social worker but little success has attended our efforts to fill this post.

The staff of the Occupation Centre consists of one supervisor (who holds a certificate of recognition as an experienced worker), an assistant supervisor who has obtained the Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, one whole-time and one part-time guide-help.

Co-ordination is maintained with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees, the local authority providing all appropriate reports. The Medical Superintendent of Brockhall Mental Deficiency Institution is available for consultation on cases of mental deficiency which present special difficulty.

The local health authority undertakes all duties, none being delegated to voluntary organisations.

A Consultant Psychiatric Clinic was inaugurated at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary on the 20th March, 1951, the Consultant being Dr. H. Coates, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

Arrangements have been made for liaison between the hospital clinic and the local authority service. A duly authorised officer and mental health visitor (female) who has some experience of psychiatric social work, obtains the social histories of all cases living within the borough. This officer also attends at the clinic and receives the psychiatrist's instructions regarding after care. The opening of the clinic in Wigan has obviated the necessity for patients to travel long distances seeking attention and is indeed a great step forward in the mental health service.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

Visits to Office by relatives and patients for advice	116
1.—UNDER LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS.	
Cases notified	174
Notified cases dealt with as follows :—	
Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	4
Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890	25
Section 21 Lunacy Act, 1890	50
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	91
Temporary Patients, Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	1
Admitted to Hospital as ordinary sick cases	1
No action taken	2
	<hr/>
	174

Cases admitted to hospital under Sec. 16, 20 and 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 and Sec. 1 and 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930, were dealt with as follows :—

Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	18
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	33
Temporary Patients, Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	4
Transferred to sick ward following discharge from order under Sec. 21 (A) Lunacy Act, 1890	5
Discharged following expiration of order under Sec 21 (A) Lunacy Act, 1890	2
Discharged following expiration of order	7
Died	4
Still under Sec. 21 (A) at 31/12/53	2
	<hr/>
	75

No. of cases visited under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	....	....	....	....	....	....	107
No. of visits under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	....	....	....	....	....	....	260
Social Histories for Wigan Infirmary Psychiatric Clinic	....						86
No. of cases in Mental Hospitals on 31/12/53	....	....	....				290
Discharges from hospitals	....	....	....	....	....		155
Deaths	....	....	....	....	....	....	17

2.—UNDER THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

Cases in M.D. Institutions at 31/12/53	....	....	....				89
Cases under Guardianship Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913	....	....					1
Cases under Statutory Supervision	....	....	....	....			87
Cases under Voluntary Supervision	....	....	....	....			19
Cases under training (occupation centre) Sec. 30 M.D. Act, 1913							15
Petitions presented, Sec. 5, M.D. Act, 1913	....	....	....				2
Cases admitted to Institutions :—							
Sec. 3 M.D. Act, 1913	....	....	....	....	....		1
Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913	....	....	....	....	....		2
Sec. 8 M.D. Act, 1913	....	....	....	....	....		1
Special Reports made on behalf of M.D. Institutions	....	....					43
Home Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	350
Visits to Occupation Centre	....	....	....	....	....		21

Particulars of cases reported during the year 1953.

Ascertainment.

(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities under Sec. 57 Education Act, 1944							
(i) Under Sec. 57 (3) Education Act, 1944	....	....					18
(ii) Under Sec. 57 (5) Education Act, 1944 :							
On leaving ordinary schools	....	....	....	....			2
On leaving special schools	....	....	....	....			—
(b) Other ascertained defectives	....	....	....	....			1
(c) Other reported cases not at present subject to be dealt with							—
							21

Disposal of cases reported during the year.

Placed under Statutory Supervision	....	....	....	....			20
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	....	....	....	....			—
Admitted to Institutions	....	....	....	....	....		1
							21

Number of Mental Defectives in Institutions, under Community Care including Voluntary Supervision or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1953, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1953.

(a) Ceased to be under care	....	....	....	....	....	6
(b) Died, removed or lost sight of	....	....	....	....	....	2
						<hr/> 8 <hr/> <hr/>

Number who have given birth to children during 1953 :—

(i) After marriage	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(ii) While unmarried	....	....	....	....	....	1
Number who married during 1953	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
Cases awaiting admission to hospital	....	....	....	....	....	5

3.—PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The duly Authorised Officers also act as case workers, concerning themselves with the after-care of patients discharged from psychiatric clinics and mental hospitals. Attempts are made to tackle the tremendous problem of the prevention of mental illness. At present, shortage of staff confines us to domiciliary visiting in a friendly capacity and arranging social contacts for unstable patients.

The case workers also liaise with the psychiatric out-patient clinics in the area and usually accompany the patients to these clinics. Thus they are able to help the psychiatrist in the matter of the patient's social background and environment.

Following upon the receipt of Circular 2/52 the authority amended its proposals under Section 28 to permit the making of arrangements whenever necessary to secure the provision of suitable temporary accommodation for, and to maintain therein, persons suffering from mental defectiveness. Five cases were dealt with under this circular during the year.

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

On the 5th July, 1948, the Health Committee took over the administration of the Occupation Centre, which is housed in Hope Street School.

The Centre is open Monday to Friday each week, except during normal school holidays.

The children have been supplied with hot mid-day meals by arrangement with the school meals service.

An Industrial class for older boys and girls is required but the present accommodation precludes this as a certain amount of fixed apparatus would be required, and the rooms at present in use in the Sunday School are used in the evenings and at week-ends for their original purposes.

The children in the two classes are graded according to physical characteristics, mental age and ability. Handwork, simple sewing, leathercraft, dancing, speech training, singing and percussion band are amongst the varied subjects attempted.

Free activity is very limited due to the complete lack of outdoor playground.

As in most buildings of this type, the toilet facilities, although perhaps adequate for occasional use, are unsatisfactory for our purposes. The Health Committee have approved a plan for a new occupation centre which is at present in building. It will provide accommodation for 69 patients and will include provision for the older age groups.

The following is an extract from the attendance register :—

	Borough.	County.	Total.
No. of children on the register at 1st Jan., 1953	15	13	28
No. of admissions during the year	2	—	2
No. of children who ceased to attend	2	—	2
No. of children remaining on the register at 31st December, 1953	15	13	28
Average daily attendance during the year	14	11	25

The limited accommodation has precluded admittance of all cases in the area and the names of several children have had to be placed on a waiting list.

CO-ORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The Chairman of the Health Committee is a member of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee. He is also Chairman of the Executive Council for the County Borough of Wigan.

The Medical Officer of Health, whilst not a member of the Hospital Management Committee, serves on the Medical Advisory Committee which is represented on the Management Committee. There is no representative of the local authority at officer level on the Executive Council but the Medical Officer of Health is a member of the Local Medical Committee which reviews the medical administrative aspects of the general practitioner services and advises the Executive Council.

In addition to the above the Medical Officer of Health is a member of a liaison committee whose members include Medical Officers of Health of Counties and County Boroughs in and adjoining the Manchester Regional Hospital Board area, and also the Principal Regional Medical Officer of the Regional Hospital Board.

Locally a liaison committee has been established consisting of representatives of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Services, both medical and administrative, the local authority services in the persons of the Medical Officer of Health, Wigan, and the Divisional Medical Officers of Divisions 8 and 11 of the Lancashire County Council Health Services, along with representatives, both medical and administrative, from the general practitioner services. The objects of the Committee are "To deal with any matter under the National Health Service Acts where co-operation between the various interests concerned can lead to smoother working and greater efficiency." Much useful work has been done since its inauguration in May, 1949.

Thus in this area liaison between the three legs of the service is adequate without being burdensome and there seems to be little need for augmenting the present system.

Section IV

**Prevalence of
and
Control over
Infectious Disease**

Once again it is my pleasure to report that during 1953 no case of Diphtheria occurred in the Borough. This was due in no small measure to the sustained immunisation campaign.

180 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, mainly amongst school children. The disease was mild in character with no serious complications and the cases were fairly evenly spread throughout the Borough. 15 of the children were admitted to hospital and no deaths were recorded.

Eight cases of Erysipelas were notified.

1,219 cases of Measles were notified, the bulk of them in the first quarter of the year. This was an epidemic year. In Wigan as in many urban areas epidemics of measles occur every two years. In the intervening year notifications are about one-third of those in the epidemic year.

No case of Meningococcal Infection was notified.

Whooping Cough accounted for 278 notifications with one death. This number is a considerable increase on the previous year when only 29 cases were notified but is comparable to the figures for 1950 and 1951.

There were five cases of Paralytic and one case of Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis notified. Each case was investigated to decide whether there was any association between the site of paralysis and recent injections. Four of the paralytic cases were young adults, whilst one was an infant who had received from his family doctor an injection of Penicillin three weeks previous to the onset of paralysis. Unfortunately the doctor could not remember into which buttock the injection was made but the site of paralysis was the right leg.

Two cases of Typhoid Fever were notified, the first one a child of 10 years of age, who was admitted to the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary as a P.U.O. after a domiciliary consultation. It was through a routine investigation that *Salmonella Typhi* was discovered and the Health Department were notified. Precautions were immediately taken to ensure that ward contacts were properly followed up and the child was transferred to cubicle accommodation. Routine investigation by the Health Department brought to light the fact that the child's father had been off-colour for some days. He also was admitted to hospital and proved to be a second case. Exhaustive enquiries outside the family failed to bring to light any possible source of infection and we were left with the information that the aged maternal grandmother, who resided with the family, had been infected with *Salmonella Typhi* some forty years ago and that her husband had succumbed to the disease. This aged person had been in regular work as a domestic until her retirement some eight weeks before the cases occurred. Since she now stayed at home most of the day whilst her daughter went out to work she had taken to making the mid-day meal for her son-in-law and grand-daughter, who subsequently became infected. Examination of the stools of this old lady showed that she was in fact a carrier but as seriology failed to throw up a vi-antigen it was not possible to say with absolute certainty that she was a long-term carrier although all the evidence pointed that way. Investigation of her place of work failed to provide further evidence and no more cases occurred. Both father and daughter survived the illness and upon discharge from hospital were declared free from the carrier state.

One case of Sonne Dysentery and three cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

CONTROL OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT SPREAD INFECTION :

When cases suffering from intestinal infection are notified they are immediately visited by a doctor, health visitor or sanitary inspector from the department according to the severity and type of the disease. Food handlers are excluded from employment, usually by a voluntary agreement, and contacts are advised to seek employment in innocuous tasks until the danger period is past. It is pleasing to report that there is complete co-operation with the food trade on these points.

Where necessary, loss of earnings can be prevented by a certificate under the National Insurance (Unemployment and Sickness Benefit) Regulations, 1948. The appropriate section reads as follows :

“ A person who is not incapable of work shall, if an insurance officer, a local tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may be, so determines, be deemed to be incapable of work by reason of some specific disease or bodily or mental disablement for any day on which he satisfies the conditions specified below, *namely* :

that he is excluded from work on the certificate of a medical officer of health of a local authority ; and that he is under medical observation by reason of his being a carrier, or having been in contact with a case, of infectious disease.”

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953 :

These regulations permit the authority to authorise the Medical Officer of Health to require persons engaged in occupations connected with the preparation of food or drink to refrain from the work if suffering from or shown to be carriers of Typhoid, Para-typhoid or other Salmonella infections or Dysentery or Staphylococcal infection likely to cause Food Poisoning. The regulations came into force on the 1st April, 1953, and the Medical Officer of Health was authorised by the Committee to take action when necessary. No action was taken under these regulations during the year.

NOTIFICATIONS

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953

Notifiable Disease	CASES NOTIFIED																							
	Age Groups									Ward Residence														
	At all Ages	under 1	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	St. George	Lindsay	St. Cath.	St. Patrick	St. Thomas	Poolstock	Victoria	St. Andrew	Swinley	All Saints	West Pem.	North Pem.	Central Pem	South Pem.
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Memb. Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	1219	50	311	452	395	9	—	—	—	—	22	47	93	81	41	60	41	58	100	22	239	119	219	77
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	28	5	—	3	3	—	4	8	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	180	—	9	38	109	18	1	—	—	—	4	4	10	7	3	7	9	27	17	2	28	18	37	7
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	67	—	—	1	5	4	20	18	—	3	5	6	2	10	1	2	1	12	6	3	2	5	12	—
Other Forms	16	—	—	2	2	2	6	1	—	1	1	1	—	3	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	3	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	278	20	80	92	85	1	—	—	—	—	4	9	20	31	6	2	2	37	6	8	46	33	42	32
TOTALS ...	1808	75	401	589	599	35	29	38	32	10	36	71	128	133	51	74	54	146	132	36	318	184	323	122

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS BY MONTHS, 1953

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	5
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	8
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Measles ...	349	542	200	69	20	13	4	—	5	11	5	1	129
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	5	4	4	3	2	—	3	1	1	—	1	4	28
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever...	7	12	17	10	11	21	3	7	12	23	34	23	180
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary ...	5	6	8	7	8	6	3	7	—	5	3	9	67
Other Forms ...	1	—	—	1	2	—	5	1	1	2	1	2	16
Whooping Cough ...	24	47	64	69	41	9	8	3	3	1	4	5	278
	391	611	296	163	85	52	26	22	22	45	48	47	1808

COMPARATIVE NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

DISEASE	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic ... {	—	—	—	24	1	1	5	—	2	5
Non-Paralytic ... {	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	61	70	59	27	8	1	—	1	2	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	1	—	60	3	7	1	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	15	20	8	11	18	14	11	3	9	8
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles ...	130	963	167	510	1465	321	544	1059	539	1219
Meningococcal Infection ...	3	2	3	5	4	1	1	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	1	2	2	4	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	69	61	54	31	45	73	89	97	69	28
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	2	1	2	4	4	4	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	310	171	93	532	839	146	138	85	44	180
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary ...	81	106	101	86	79	72	73	73	56	67
Other Forms ...	32	36	22	27	24	12	14	21	15	16
Whooping Cough ...	76	21	111	31	104	157	106	202	29	278
	792	1463	625	1294	2595	862	991	1554	768	1808

TUBERCULOSIS
NOTIFICATIONS, 1953

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS

	Age Periods	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis													Total (all ages)
		0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	
Respiratory—Males	—	—	1	4	3	4	—	8	5	9	9	3	—	46
Respiratory—Females	—	—	—	1	1	6	6	5	2	—	—	—	—	21
Non-Respiratory—Males	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Non-Respiratory—Female	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	—	11

CASES COMING TO THE NOTICE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
OTHERWISE THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION

Source of Information		0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total
Death Returns from Local Registrars	Resp. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2A
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1B
	Non-M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—C
	Resp. F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—D
Death Returns from Registrar General-Trans-Non- ferable Deaths	Resp. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—A
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2B
	Non-M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—C
	Resp. F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—D
Posthumous Notifications	Resp. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—A
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—B
	Non-M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—C
	Resp. F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—D

TOTALS : A—2; B—3, C—0, D—0.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN WARDS

WARDS	Estimated Population	Notifications			Deaths		
		Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	TOTALS	Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	Other forms of Tuber- culosis	TOTALS
No. 1—St. George ...	2472	5	1	6	—	—	—
No. 2—Lindsay ...	4688	6	1	7	2	—	2
No. 3—St. Catharine	5399	2	—	3	2	—	2
No. 4—St. Patrick ...	6115	10	3	13	2	—	2
No. 5—St. Thomas ...	2435	1	—	1	—	—	—
No. 6—Poolstock ...	3655	2	1	3	—	—	—
No. 7—Victoria ...	2834	1	—	1	1	—	1
No. 8—St. Andrew ...	16239	12	3	15	3	1	4
No. 9—Swinley ...	10167	6	1	7	1	—	1
No. 10—All Saints ...	2181	3	1	4	1	—	1
No. 11—West Pemberton	6552	2	—	2	2	—	2
No. 12—North "	6450	5	3	8	2	—	2
No. 13—Central "	9281	12	1	13	3	—	3
No. 14—South "	4792	—	1	1	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	83260	67	16	83	20	1	21

Estimated Population of Wards is based on current Voters' List.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	5	1	—	4	—	—	—	—
15—	7	7	3	—	—	—	—	—
25—	8	11	1	3	5	4	—	—
45—	14	2	1	3	6	1	—	1
65—	12	—	—	1	3	1	—	—
75—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	46	21	5	11	14	6	—	1

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 20, against 10 in 1952, and 35 in 1951. The number of deaths from other tubercular infections was 1, against 4 in 1952, and 1 in 1951.

The rates are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.24 per 1,000 of population.
 Other Tuberculous Diseases 0.01 per 1,000 of population.

If taken together as tuberculous infections, we have 21 deaths or a rate of 0.25 per 1,000 of the population.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1949 TO 1953

CASES NOTIFIED

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary	72	73	73	56	67
Other forms of Tuberculosis	12	14	21	15	16
TOTAL	84	87	94	71	83

DEATHS :

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary	42	35	35	10	20
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	7	1	4	1
TOTAL	49	42	36	14	21

DEATH RATES :

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary	0.49	0.41	0.42	0.12	0.24
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.05	0.01
TOTAL	0.57	0.49	0.43	0.17	0.25

DISINFECTION

Two disinfectors deal with the disinfection of dwelling-houses.

The Disinfector at Whelley Hospital received steam from the hospital laundry. The closure of this following upon the decision of the Hospital Management Committee to centralise all laundry work at Billinge and the state of disrepair of the boiler has rendered the disinfector unusable.

Alternative arrangements have been made to use the old disinfector at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane, and as an interim measure the disinfector at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary may be used.

Disinfection of rooms has been criticised, and in fact described as a useless procedure. Assuming that disinfection does not totally destroy the infecting organisms, it does impress the persons concerned of the necessity for cleanliness and care, and ensures a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of the rooms, which is doubtless of great hygienic value, especially in dirty houses.

There is no doubt that steam disinfection of bedding is a valuable preventive measure.

No. of houses disinfected	....	....	....	....	....	....	156
„ rooms disinfected	....	....	....	....	....	....	319
„ beds disinfected	....	....	....	....	....	....	31
„ sheets and blankets disinfected			....	....	....	....	95
„ other articles disinfected		....	....	....	....	....	76

DISTRIBUTION OF DISINFECTANTS

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious disease has occurred, and in cases where there are exceptional circumstances. Other persons who desire supplies are charged a small amount to meet the cost of the disinfectant.

Information on the correct use of these agents is given by the sanitary inspectors.

Section V

National Assistance Act, 1948

Part III

Welfare Services

ADMINISTRATION

During the year the Authority's Welfare Services, under the National Assistance Act, have continued to be controlled by the Health Committee. Two sub-committees have been concerned with the Welfare functions as follows:

The Health (Accommodation) Sub-Committee, which deals with the provision of residential and temporary accommodation, with the assistance of aged in their own homes and with the administration of social and handicraft centres.

The Health (Blind and Other Handicapped Persons) Sub-Committee, which deals with the provisions of Welfare Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted, for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and for the general classes of Handicapped Persons. All services are administered by the Welfare Services Section of the Department and the total number of staff employed on Welfare Services at 31st December, 1954, was 86, made up as follows:—

Administrative and Clerical (including persons in charge of Homes)	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Homes Staffs (other than persons in charge)	....	....	....	....	....	....	67
Staff employed at Social and Handicraft Centres	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
							<u>86</u>

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

Provision is now available for accommodating some 88 persons in the small modern home and a further 50 in an adapted portion of the former Institution, which has been renamed and improved during the year. In the remainder of the former Institution there is accommodation for some 70–80 aged men who require less attention and whose need for care arises principally from their lack of supervised accommodation and elementary comforts. The total available accommodation is therefore 218 Aged Beds, as shown by the following chart:—

Accommodation	Type	Number of Beds		Includes provision for married couples when required.
		Male	Female	
Douglas Bank House	Adapted Small Home	10	21	
Norley Hall	New Home	19	19	
“Rockwood,” Rhos-on-Sea	Adapted Small Home	9	10	
St. Stephen's House	Improved Sec. of former Institution	26	24	
Hostel for Men	Former Inst.	80	—	
		144	74	Total 218 Aged Beds



Norley Hall

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

A portion of the former Institution has been adapted and set apart as self-contained accommodation for Homeless Families and is now nearing completion. There will be accommodation for 9 families who will provide their own food and will receive lodging and fuel only from the Corporation. The experiment is designed to upgrade these problem families and is an effort to bring them back to normal living conditions as near as possible. Supervision will be provided to encourage the families to help themselves and to give opportunities for instruction in Housecraft and general cleanliness.

During the year 6 men, 12 women and 27 children were admitted to temporary accommodation in parts of the former Institution and at 31st December, 1953, there were 9 families in residence.

VOLUNTARY HOMES

There are no voluntary homes providing accommodation in the Borough for aged and infirm persons.

DOMICILIARY WELFARE OF THE AGED AND HANDICAPPED

The Committee recognise that in spite of the provision that can be made in the way of residential accommodation, there will still be a very large proportion of the aged population who are able to, and would desire to continue living in their own homes. It is to further the welfare of these people that the Authority called together the various voluntary organisations of the town, endeavouring to co-ordinate such of their services as will benefit the aged.

It is hoped that the outcome will be an expansion of the services which old people appreciate most, such as home visiting, shopping, sewing and mending and the neighbourly services which Voluntary Workers would be able to perform. The Meals on Wheels Service, which is provided under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and which is described earlier in the report, is an additional help in this direction, as most of the very old are in some way or other physically handicapped in providing their own meals. In addition, the Home Help and the general domiciliary nursing services are fully at the disposal of the aged and infirm.

During the year visits were paid by Welfare Services Staff to 318 homes in the Borough and help was given on a wide variety of problems and difficulties.

OTHER SERVICES

HOLIDAYS AT ROCKWOOD, COLWYN BAY.

A holiday at the Council's Aged Persons' Home at Colwyn Bay was arranged for several severely disabled persons and all had an enjoyable ten days' holiday in the summer.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

It was not found necessary to take action under this Section during 1953.

PROTECTION OF MOVEABLE PROPERTY (Section 48)

Three applications were received during the year, requesting the Authority to provide protection of the moveable property of a person removed to hospital, and the property was placed in the care of the Council.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD (Section 50)

During the year there were 6 applications to the Authority for action to be taken under Section 50, regarding the burial of the persons dying in the area of the Council. The service was provided in 4 cases,

WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

The functions of the Authority are administered on an agency basis by the Wigan, Leigh and District Society for the Blind. Two Home Teachers are employed and seconded to the Society for duty. The following table shows the number of registered blind persons on 31st December, 1953.

0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-39	40-49	50-64	65-69	70 and over	Total
M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
—	—	—	1	8	8	6	5	18	11
								6	8
								42	60
									173

81 males, 92 females, of whom 145 are over the age of 50 years.

During the year 1953, 40 persons were examined and 6 persons were re-examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon. 24 of these were certified as Blind, and 22 were placed upon the observation register. 3 cases were transferred out of the area and 3 cases transferred into the area. There were 18 deaths of registered blind persons.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the 46 persons concerned.

	0-15	15-30	30-45	45-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	Total
Males	—	1	—	2	—	4	3	6	4	2	22
Females	—	—	1	6	4	6	2	3	—	2	24

The cause of blindness in the above cases was as follows :—

	Men.	Women
CONGENITAL AND UNDETERMINED CAUSES :		
Congenital, hereditary and developmental defects	1	—
Myopic error	2	2
Other errors of refraction	—	—
Primary glaucoma	2	4
Primary cataract	8	11
INFECTIOUS AND BACTERIAL DISEASE		
Syphilis (acquired)	1	—
TRAUMATIC AND CHEMICAL :		
Industrial trauma	1	1
Non-industrial trauma	2	—
GENERAL DISEASE :		
Vascular diseases	5	2
Diabetes	—	1
Diseases of the central nervous system	—	1
Other general diseases	—	2



The Lounge, Norley Hall

FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Para. 7 (c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—	CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(a) No treatment	2	3	—	2
(b) Treatment :—				
Medical	2	1	—	11
Surgical	9	1	—	2
Optical	4	1	—	8
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	10	2	—	10

NOTE.—Of the 46 newly registered cases, 2 died during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the year Nil.
- (ii) Number of cases in which :—
- | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|--------|
| (a) Vision lost | | | | | } Nil. |
| (b) Vision impaired | .... | .... | .... | .... |  |
| (c) Treatment continuing at end of year | | | | | |

WELFARE OF THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED

At the end of 1953 there were 36 persons registered in the Observation Register. All these people are substantially and permanently handicapped by defective vision.

The following table shows the age groups of persons on the register :—

70 and														Total		
0-1		2-4		5-15		16-20		21-39		40-49		50-64			65-69	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	3	6	1	3	
														13	6	36

WELFARE OF BLIND CHILDREN

1 blind and 4 partially sighted children, who have been ascertained under the Education Act (Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service) Regulations, 1945, as being in need of special educational treatment, are being maintained by the Authority at St. Vincent's School for the Blind and Partially Sighted, Liverpool.

WORKSHOP EMPLOYMENT

Workshops for the Blind are provided in Darlington Street East, Wigan. The Workshops are owned and maintained by the Wigan County Borough Council and the Lancashire County Council, and are administered by a voluntary committee, which has adequate representation of members of the two authorities,

The types of employment and extent of provision available for Borough cases is as follows :—

Brush making	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 males.
Basket making	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 males.
Mat making	....	....	....	....	....	....	— males.
Machine knitters and chair seating	....	....	....	....	....	....	3 females
Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 male.

On the 31st December, 1953, there were 12 blind persons from the County Borough employed in the workshops.

WELFARE OF THE DEAF

The functions of the Authority are in accordance with the approved Scheme administered on an agency basis by the Wigan and District Deaf and Dumb Society, acting as agents for the County Borough Council. There are 76 Deaf Adults and 17 Deaf Children within the County Borough and a further 400 severely deafened adults ; a total of 493 at 31st December, 1953. This includes 9 persons who are Deaf-Blind.

Considerable improvement has been effected to the premises at 20, Swinley Road, Wigan, used as an Institute and Chapel ; it is hoped to complete this Scheme at an early date and to advance the welfare of the Deaf in the area to the highest possible standard.

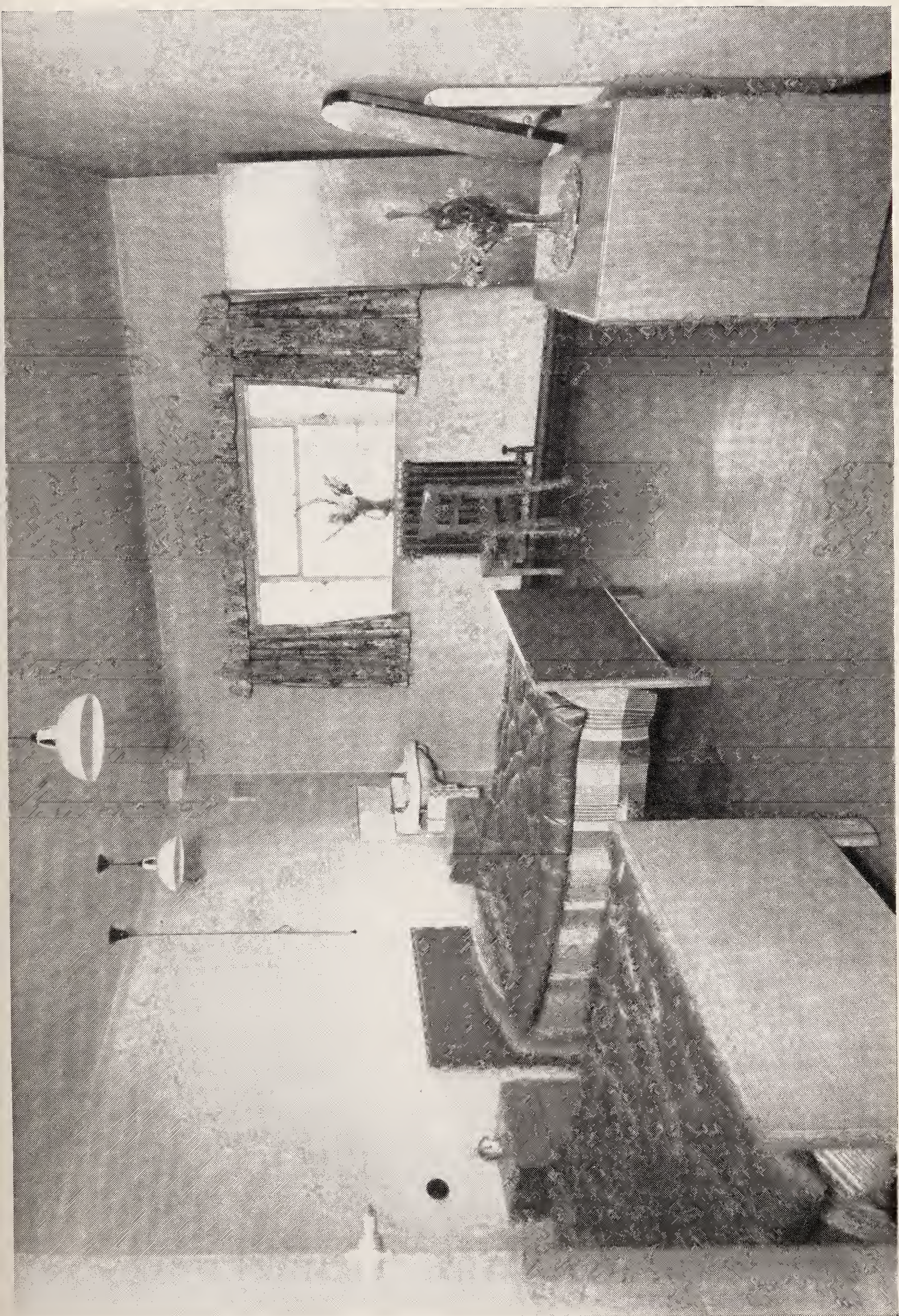
WELFARE OF THE HARD OF HEARING

During the year arrangements were made for the commencement of lip-reading classes with a qualified instructor and it is hoped to improve the facilities available to the Hard of Hearing Fellowship when the adaptations are completed and the furnishing further improved.

WELFARE OF OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS

PROGRESS OF REGISTRATION

Since the Scheme commenced in April, 1952 over 200 persons have been interviewed in their own homes. The first 50 of these were notified to Welfare Services by the National Assistance Board. The remainder were ascertained through the Wigan and Pemberton Branches of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.



A Bedroom, Norley Hall

CLASSIFICATION OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

HANDICAP.	Males.	Females.
Amputation	20	—
Arthritis and Rheumatism	11	1
Congenital Malformations and Deformities	11	6
Diseases of the Digestive, Heart, Respiratory and Circulatory Systems	53	5
Injuries or Diseases of lower or upper limbs or spine, thorax, abdomen, etc.	49	4
Organic Nervous Diseases (Epilepsy, Polio- myelitis, etc.)	25	18
Neuroses, Psychosis and other Nervous and Mental Disorders	10	10
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	—
Diseases and injuries not specified above	6	3
	<hr/> 187	<hr/> 47
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

SUMMARY : GROUPING

A.—Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	65
B.—Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	75
C.—Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions or sheltered workshops, but capable of work at home	34
D.—Incapable of or not available for work	60
	<hr/> 234
	<hr/> <hr/>

In the above grouping, at the time the visit was made, 76 persons were employed and 158 persons were not engaged in any recognised place of employment.

HANDICRAFTS

Handicraft classes are held weekly for handicapped persons at the Social Centres in Crompton Street and Tunstall Lane. The classes are well attended and various arts and crafts have been introduced according to the ability of those attending.

LIAISON WITH MINISTRY OF LABOUR'S DISABLEMENT RESETTLEMENT OFFICER.

The closest contact is maintained with the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour, Wigan. A number of cases have been notified to that officer with a view to their being placed into sheltered employment (*e.g.* Remploy Factory). The D.R.O. and his staff have been most helpful in assisting with the forwarding of publicity about the Committee's Scheme.

SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT

At present the only sheltered employment is available at Remploy, Pemberton, where some thirty-five Registered Handicapped Persons are employed. Further enquiries have been received from twenty-four handicapped persons who need sheltered employment in any future Scheme which the Committee may pursue.

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

INCIDENCE OF EPILEPSY

26 adult persons (10 men, 16 women) suffering from epilepsy have been notified to the Welfare Services Section from various sources and their names have been placed on the Register of Handicapped Persons.

These names include 2 male and 4 female persons who are in Colony Care provided at the following institutions :—

					Male.	Female.
Maghull Epileptic Colony	....	....	....	....	1	3
Langho Epileptic Colony, Blackburn	....	....	....	....	1	1

The local office of the Ministry of Labour are aware of 32 persons who were registered as disabled due to epilepsy.

The local Education Authority provided special educational treatment for three children suffering from epilepsy.

The above figures represent only those epileptics whose condition was so severe as to need special arrangements for their education, employment or maintenance.

INCIDENCE OF SPASTICS

Whilst it is difficult to ascertain the total number of spastics resident in the County Borough, by utilising various sources of information, a record is available of some 24 persons. 2 adult persons have been notified to the Welfare Services Section and their names have been entered on the Register of Handicapped Persons.

Of the children notified (9 boys, 3 girls), one girl has left school and is now in employment. One boy is undergoing a course of training at the Queen Elizabeth Training College, Leatherhead, Surrey, whilst another boy has completed a similar course of training and is now employed by a local firm of electricians. One boy and one girl are reported as ineducable, the remainder of the children being in school.

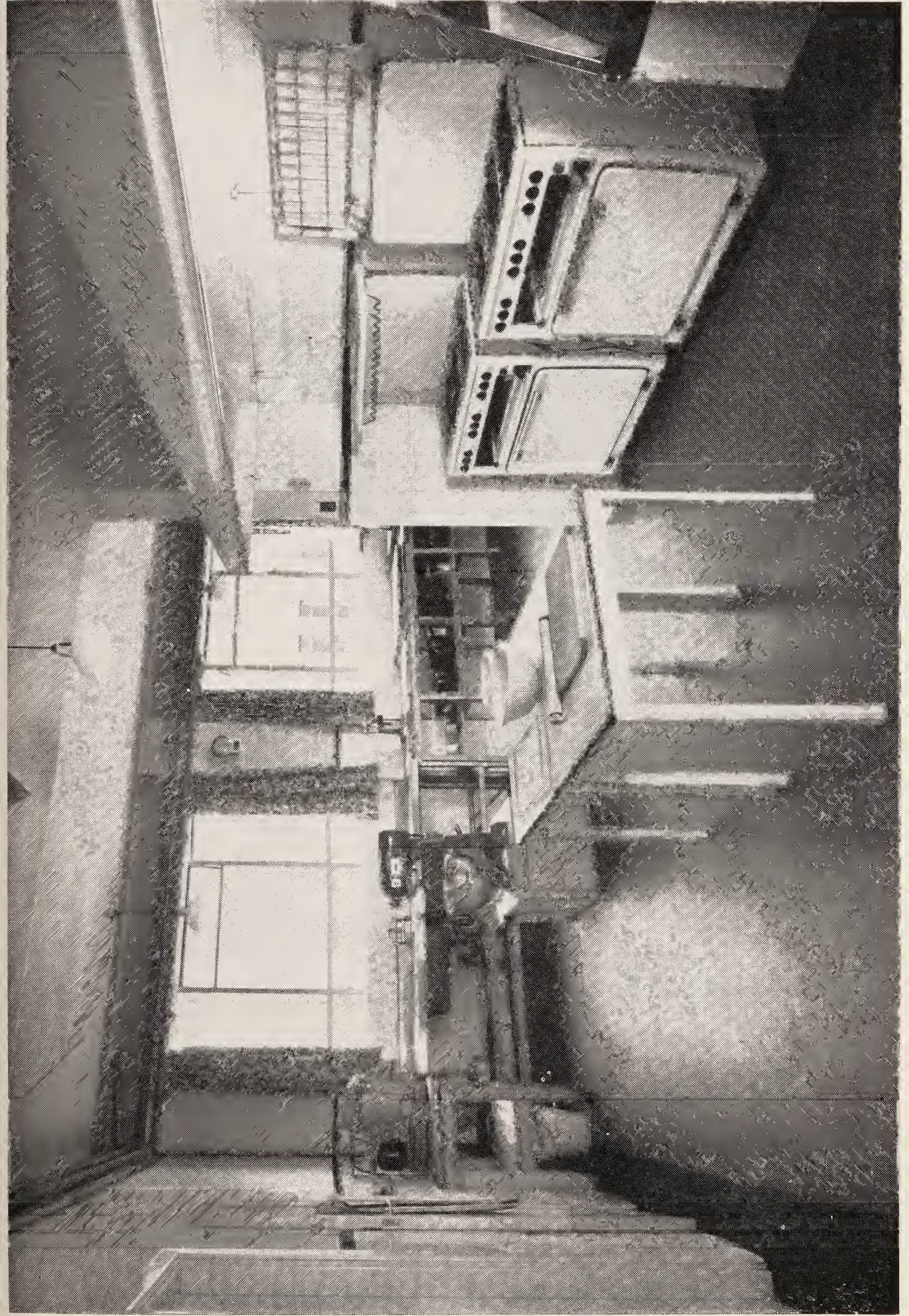
Information received from the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary shows that spastics (5 males and 5 females) have received treatment at the out-patients' department during the year.

Clinical and diagnostic services are available at Wigan Royal Infirmary and an Orthopaedic Surgeon and Physiotherapist are employed on the staff of the School Health Service and their services are available for the treatment of spastics as and when required.

CIVIL DEFENCE

REST CENTRES

Since the National Assistance Act came into force, additional duties have been placed on Local Authorities by virtue of a Statutory Instrument issued by the Secretary of State in 1949 relating to Evacuation and Care of the Homeless (Civil Defence). Regulations relating to the care of the homeless were not issued by the Ministry of Health until 1950. It then became the duty of Local Authorities to plan arrangements for the provision of Rest Centres, and to designate a Chief Rest Centre Officer. The Medical Officer of Health became responsible for the planning of the Rest Centre Service. 30 premises have been earmarked as suitable for Rest Centres and Rest Centre leaders and deputies have been appointed.



The Kitchen, Norley Hall

CARE OF THE HOMELESS

Circular No. 7/53 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government imposed on Local Authorities the duty of making plans for the provision of a service for billeting in their area, and to make preliminary arrangements for a canvas of billets when necessary.

In this respect, the Welfare Services Section is in process of compiling a register of accommodation in the Borough that could be made available for the billeting of the homeless in the event of war.

Under this circular, it also became the duty of the Authority to designate a person to act as Chief Billeting Officer in the event of hostilities and the Medical Officer of Health was appointed to this post.

WELFARE SECTION (Civil Defence) TRAINING

At the 31st December, 1953, 303 members of the Civil Defence Corps had been allotted to the Welfare Section. Of this number 85 had completed basic Training and 20 had completed Basic Training and Sectional Training except Emergency Feeding.

Section VI

Sanitary Circumstances
of the Area

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information on the Borough Water Supply :—

The Borough is supplied with water for domestic and trade purposes from the Arley, Worthington and Pemberton impounding reservoirs, which have a total capacity of 278,000,000 gallons, and from wells at Nicholson's Pit, Winstanley and Bispham Shaft, Billinge. In addition to these local sources, bulk supplies of water are obtained from Manchester Corporation by means of a pipe line connected to the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

The Corporation also own Reservoirs at Adlington and Pemberton, which are used for compensation purposes only, and a Reservoir at Whitley provides water for industrial use. A further source is being developed at Newfoundland Shaft, Adlington, to assist the Corporation in meeting their compensation water obligations.

The catchment areas feeding the impounding reservoirs are mainly devoted to agricultural use, and both areas contain farms and isolated dwellings. The Worthington catchment has suffered due to sporadic development along the main roads traversing the area. Constant supervision is necessary to minimise the danger of pollution, and local improvements are made from time to time at points of suspected pollution.

Slow sand filters are provided at Worthington, and slow sand and mechanical filters at Edgewood (for Pemberton water). Chlorination plants are installed at Boars Head Pumping Station, Boars Head Water Tower, Edgewood and Bispham. Thus, all water supplies are chlorinated before distribution, with the exception of the trade supply from Whitley Reservoir.

Tap samples are taken every month from four dwellings selected at random in the Borough, and are dispatched for chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples of raw and filtered waters are also obtained and tested. A few adverse tap samples were reported during the year, but local mains flushing and chlorination resulted in satisfactory analyses in later samples.

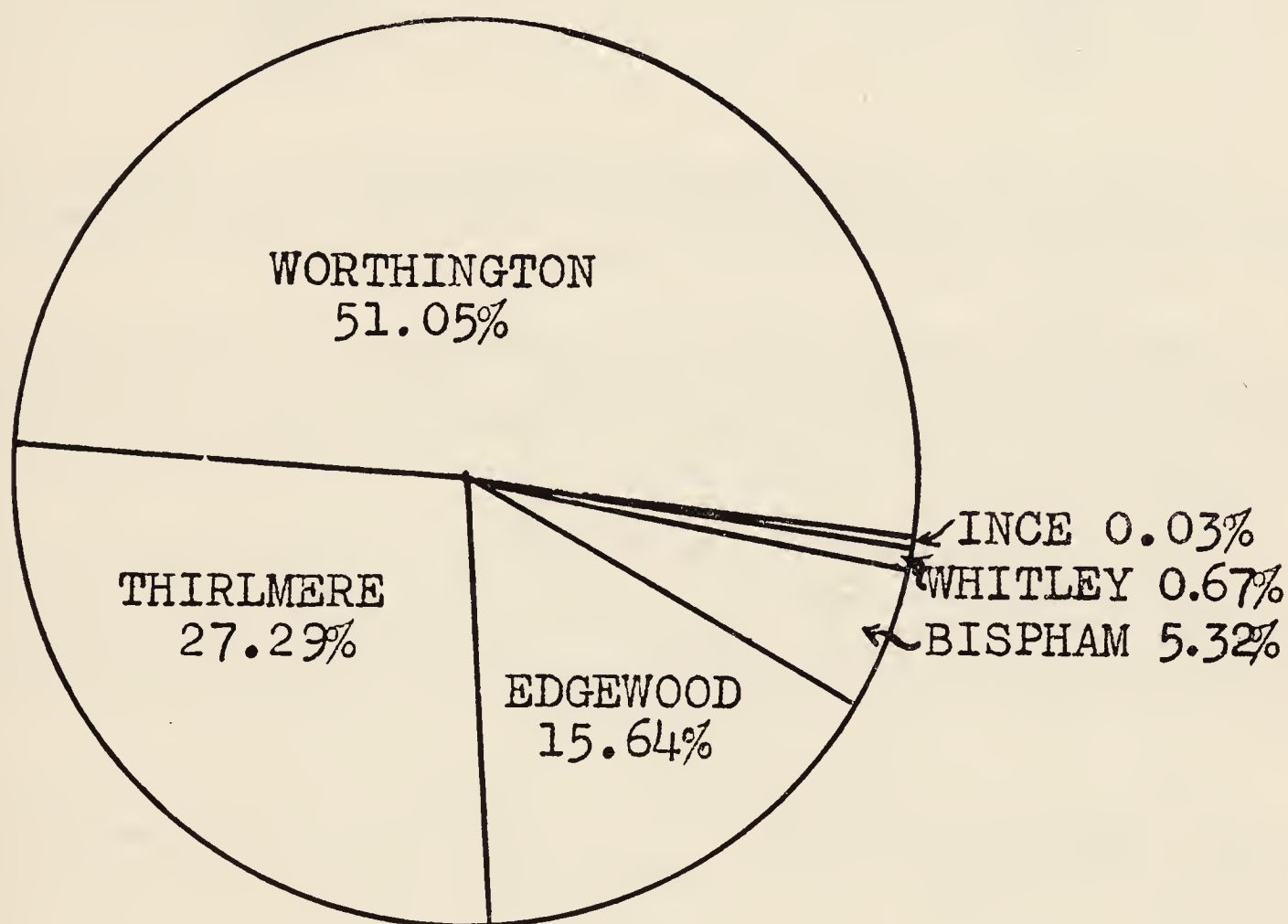
Due to an abnormally dry winter in 1952/53 stocks of water at the beginning of the summer were much lower than average. Restrictions on the use of water for gardens and car washing had to be imposed and also extra water from Manchester obtained.

The approximate average daily consumption for domestic purposes is 1,986,274 gallons, representing approximately 23.86 gallons per head per day for a population of 83,260.

Bulk supplies of water are made to the Orrell U.D.C., and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C., under agreements between the Corporation and the respective Councils. Several dwellings situated on the Borough boundaries are supplied with water by the Orrell U.D.C., and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C.

The following diagram showing the percentages of water supplied from the various sources is extracted from the report on the Waterworks by the Borough and Water Engineer.

WATER SUPPLIED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, 1953-1954.



(Edgewood and Bispham quantities include water pumped from Nicholson's Pit).

PUBLIC BATHS

The Baths Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Cockrell, has kindly supplied the following statistics and report:—

PARTICULARS OF THE BOROUGH BATHING ESTABLISHMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1954.

Number of Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	16
BATHERS :						
Male Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	69,938
Male Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	16,795
Female Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	33,690
Female Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	8,339
Mixed Bathing: Adults and Juniors	....	....	....	....	....	9,376
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	22,875
						<hr/> 161,013 <hr/>

Number of Bathers during the past five years :
Year ended 31st March

1950	....	....	....	....	....	202,283
1951	....	....	....	....	....	175,177
1952	....	....	....	....	....	161,951
1953	....	....	....	....	....	164,026
1954	....	....	....	....	....	161,013

The above figures show a decrease as compared with the previous year. This may be due to the fact that the Ladies' Plunge Bath was closed for repairs for a period from the 30th January, 1954.

During the financial year 1955/6 a sum of £4,000 has been allocated for the purpose of stripping, re-lining and re-tanking the Gentlemen's Plunge Bath and provision has also been made for re-tiling the showers and side-walks of the plunge bath with non-slip tiles.

When circumstances permit the Council have in mind the erection of a new super plunge bath, together with a public hall on the site now occupied by the Pavilion Cinema. This will enable the Committee to satisfy the needs of the many schools and clubs who have each year made application for the use of the baths, requests which have reluctantly been refused.

Each year the Bath Water Filters are emptied and the filtering media washed, segregated and sterilised. The shells of the filters are treated with a non-corrosive solution to prevent deterioration and any possible source of infection.

Particular attention is given to the Bath Water to ensure that the standards of purity comply with the requirements recommended by the Ministry of Health. Tests are carried out several times each day to determine the residual Chlorine and Alkalinity content of the water.

Due to the many difficulties experienced in carrying out repairs to the Ladies' Plunge Bath, swimming facilities will be greatly curtailed during the early part of the summer season 1954 and it will be necessary for the Gents.' Plunge Bath to be used on alternate days by Ladies.

The repairs to the Ladies' Plunge Bath are expected to be completed by the end of September, 1954.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Douglas and the streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The River is badly polluted before entering the Borough and a certain amount of pollution occurs within.

The River Douglas is under the control of the Lancashire Rivers Board who are constantly engaged in work of dredging and straightening of the River. Improvements in the course of the River have recently been made, particularly in the region of Gillibrand Bridge.

The Lancashire Rivers Board also clean the River, remove sludge, etc., from the bed, as required.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained.

The sewage is conducted from the town by two main outfall sewers, 27 inches and 36 inches diameter, to the Sewage Disposal Works at Hoscar, which are seven miles distant. Before leaving the town the sewage passes through two detritus tanks and also through coarse and fine screens, and at this point the storm water is diverted from the outfall sewers and is conveyed to the storm water treatment works at Pemberton.

Alumino-ferric is added to the sewage at Hoscar, which then passes through Preliminary and Secondary Settling Tanks and a battery of circular revolving percolating filters. The effluent from the filters before it is discharged to the River Douglas is passed through humus tanks.

For some considerable time it has been evident that the present sewage treatment plant is inadequate to deal with the gradually increasing outflow. This inadequacy has been accentuated by the need to handle the liquor from the N.W. Gas Board's Wigan Gas Works. This at present is allowed to flow untreated into the River Douglas. Plans for an extensive modernisation of the sewage plant are before the Ministry of Health for consideration.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer, Mr. G. Keighley, for the following information :—

During the year 1953, the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	....	....	228,185,000	gallons
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	....	....	1,148,984,000	„
Hoscar Drainage Area	....	....	434,834,000	„
TOTAL SEWAGE TREATED	....	....	1,812,003,000	„
Total solids, detritus tanks and screen chambers, Pemberton				3,428 tons
Total dried sludge recovered	....	....	2,127	„
Weight of dried sludge per million gallons of sewage	....		1.17	„
Rainfall for year	....	....		26.91 inches

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Mr. W. Smith, the Director of Public Cleansing, has supplied the following particulars :—

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—The collection of dry house refuse and trade refuse is carried out by both horse and mechanical transport, working as separate units, and by the Pagefield container system, and the percentage of refuse collected by each system is as follows :—

Horse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20 per cent.
Pagefield container	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27 „
Mechanical vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53 „

68 per cent. of the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping.

NIGHTSOIL AND PAIL REFUSE.—The refuse (530 tons) is disposed of direct to farmers as manure. All pails are washed and disinfected after each collection.

TRADE REFUSE.—Fixed charges were introduced on November 1st, 1950, for the removal of this refuse. The shops and business premises in the town centre have a daily collection.

950 tons of trade refuse was delivered at the tipping site by private traders and contractors.

A scale of charges, in accordance with vehicle capacity, is operated.

GULLY CLEANSING.—During the year, 19,685 gullies were emptied.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—The following conveniences and urinals are maintained and cleansed by the department :—

2 public conveniences for ladies and gents, with attendants.

4 public conveniences for ladies and gents, without attendants.

19 public urinals.

All urinals are cleansed and inspected twice per day, including Sundays.

GENERAL.—The quantity of refuse dealt with by the Refuse Disposal Plant during the year 1953 was 8,017 tons, and the quantity tipped was 17,385 tons. In April, 1950, the Corporation introduced a Dust Bin Renewal Scheme, as a direct rate charge.

During the year, 1,530 bins were renewed, and 348 sold to properties not included in the scheme.

123,835,000 square yards of street have been swept during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The estimated number of water closets in the Borough was 29,036, waste water closets 87, pail closets 44, and privy middens 31.

The majority of pail closets and privy middens are attached to houses

unfit for human habitation or premises where the drainage cannot be connected to the sewer.

On April 1st, 1926 the Local Authority inaugurated a scheme for the conversion of waste water closets to closets on the water carriage system with proper flushing apparatus and if this work was carried out to the satisfaction of the Local Authority a grant of £5 was made towards the cost of each conversion. Since that date, 941 closets have been converted.

This scheme is still in operation and in all cases where notices have been served for foul or defective waste water closets the owner or agent has been advised to convert them to closets on the water carriage system. During 1951 the Local Authority grant was increased to £10, and the effect of this incentive has been to speed conversion of waste water closets.

SANITARY INSPECTION

Mr. John Ashton, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks with a summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors :—

During the year under review, the Inspectorial Staff was seriously depleted and it was found extremely difficult to obtain Inspectors. At the end of the year we were still two short of full establishment, thus placing extra work on the remaining members of the staff who made every effort to cope with a difficult situation.

The severe gales at the end of the year 1952 added considerably to the work, particularly during the early part of the year 1953. Although many difficulties were experienced in connection with the re-housing and general repair of roofs, eaves gutters, chimney stacks, etc., good progress was made in repairing the damage caused by the storm. This was due, in no small measure, to the untiring efforts of the staff. In addition to this emergency, numerous complaints were received of defects existing at other houses not actually affected by the gale. It was also found necessary to make a detailed inspection of a number of houses totally unfit for human habitation for which special reports had to be prepared for submission to the Health (Insanitary Houses) Sub-Committee. Other important duties such as inspection of meat in the slaughterhouses and the sampling of milk and other foods were carried out as usual despite the fact that the staff was considerably depleted.

With regard to the slaughterhouses, it must be emphasised that daily inspection has to be carried out and a considerable amount of time has to be devoted to this work.

Legal proceedings were instituted in nine cases owing to non-compliance with Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, and in six instances, the work was carried out before the hearing of the summons and in two cases a Magistrate's Order was made for the work to be carried out within a certain period and in the remaining case, although the work had been carried out before the summons was heard, the owner was fined £1. With respect to four houses where a Magistrate's Order had not been obeyed, the Health Committee authorised the work to be carried out by the Borough Engineer at the owner's expense.

The parking of caravans on vacant land in the Borough still continues, and it has been found in one or two instances that when these vans have been removed from a plot of land in one part of the Borough, they have eventually been discovered parked on land in some other part of the town. Some of these caravans are of a poor type and more or less unfit for human habitation. It must be stressed again that the solution to this problem is the provision of licensed sites where the provisions of the Wigan Corporation Act, 1933 could be complied with and proper supervision maintained.

The body of the report shows in detail the many and varied duties carried out by the staff.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances and complaints	2546
Re-visits to nuisances	8160
Other visits made	1081
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	314
Nuisances discovered	5298
Nuisances abated	4917
Notices issued (preliminary)	1383
Notices issued (formal)...	782
Letters issued <i>re</i> nuisances	832
Visits <i>re</i> building licences	939
Visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	141
Re-visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	25
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease	308
Visits to slaughterhouses	1213
Visits <i>re</i> offensive trades	5
Visits to markets	38
„ butchers and other food shops	1948
„ dairies	199
„ milkshops	16
„ ice-cream premises	83
„ bakehouses	43
„ common lodging houses	61
„ factories	206
„ places of entertainment	19
„ caravans	34
„ caravans on fairground	70
„ canal boats	5
„ <i>re</i> means of escape in case of fire	10
„ rats and mice—dwellings	7712
„ „ „ other premises	14709
„ smoke abatement	15
No. of shops observations	34
No. of visits to shops under Shops Act	209
Visits <i>re</i> Poisons Acts	16
„ premises <i>re</i> applications for tenancy of Council houses	192

SAMPLES OBTAINED :

Food and Drugs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	254
Water (for chemical analysis)....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	48
Water, Milk and Ice-cream (for bacteriological examination)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	280
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Rag flock....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There is still much room for improvement so far as the emission of black smoke from chimneys is concerned. Many visits have been paid to industrial and other premises in the Borough and some progress has been made by personal contacts with the managements and other persons concerned. There is little doubt that much of the black smoke emitted from industrial premises is due to inefficient stoking, and the provision of mechanical stokers, properly controlled, would tend to lessen the nuisance which at present is so prevalent. It would be a great advantage if the training and certification of persons engaged in this work could be enforced, either by legislation or by co-operation between all parties concerned.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS.

It has been found necessary during the year to call the attention of certain lodging house keepers to various contraventions of the bye-laws. In some instances, verbal warnings have had the desired effect, but it was decided in one case to grant the licence for three months only. After pressure from the Department, conditions improved and the licence was then extended to the end of the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

No. of common lodging houses in the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
„ lodgers allowed nightly	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	201
„ visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	61

HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS

No. of houses on register	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
„ visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The offensive trade premises in the Borough comprise : 1 fell-monger, 1 fat boiler, 1 gut scraper and fat boiler, 1 tripe boiler and 1 gut scraper.

Visits have been paid to these premises by the Inspectors and it is worthy of note once again that no complaints were received during the year.

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER MATERIALS REGULATIONS, 1951.

Three samples were taken during the year and the results of the examinations were satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS ACT, 1877 and 1884, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No. of boats registered at Wigan and still in use or available	....	19
„ inspections	....	5
„ letters sent out <i>re</i> defects	....	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Routine visits have been paid to these premises and any contraventions noted. Where these have been discovered, letters were addressed to the persons concerned. The continued co-operation of H.M. Inspector of Factories and the Fire Service is greatly appreciated, as such collaboration is very necessary in the efficient execution of our duties under this Act.

Certificates granted for adequate means of escape in case of fire	2
Revision of certificates for adequate means of escape in case of fire	1
Defective or unsatisfactory means of escape	3
Letters sent out....	4
No. of factories on register	516
„ visits to factories	206
„ visits to bakehouses	43
„ building sites and other works	44

The following defects were dealt with :—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	12
Require limewashing or cleansing	21
Other offences	15
	—
	51
	==
No. of defects remedied	23
„ notices received from H.M. Inspector	16
„ underground bakehouses being used	1

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Visits have been paid to the various shops in the Borough and a list of contraventions under the Act are detailed below.

With regard to the Clean Food Campaign, continued shortage of staff during the year has hampered us in our efforts in this direction as it has in other branches of our work. Special attention has been given as far as possible to food premises and although lectures have not been arranged, the Inspectorial Staff have given advice on the general cleanliness of premises, the proper handling of food, methods to prevent contamination and the washing of hands, particularly after using the toilet. Letters have been addressed to the occupiers of certain premises setting out in detail the requirements of this Department to bring the shops up to a reasonable standard of hygiene.

Observations of shops have been carried out in an endeavour to ensure that they are complying with the Act in regard to closing, assistants' half-holiday and sanitary accommodation, etc.

'Purveyors of Meat' Premises	....	....	....	....	....	80
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	....	....	....	....	....	41
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	72
Grocery Stores	....	....	....	....	....	381
Greengrocery	....	....	....	....	....	55
Other shops	....	....	....	....	....	1220
No. of visits and observations	....	....	....	....	....	243

REPORT OF OFFENCES

Not exhibiting Form E	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ „ F	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ „ G	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ „ H	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ „ Sunday trading form	....	....	....	....	....	4
„ „ „ Assistants' Half-holiday form	....	....	....	....	....	2
„ „ „ Early closing day form	....	....	....	....	....	11
Provision of suitable washing facilities	....	....	....	....	....	5
Cleanliness of shop premises	....	....	....	....	....	3
Protection of food against contamination	....	....	....	....	....	9
'Now wash your hands' notice	....	....	....	....	....	1
Goods sold on early closing day	....	....	....	....	....	1
Defective floor	....	....	....	....	....	3
Sunday trading	....	....	....	....	....	5
Letters sent out <i>re</i> contraventions	24

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

No. of "Listed Sellers" on register....	86
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PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

The places of entertainment have been visited periodically and a special inspection was made before the annual renewal of licences took place. It is pleasing to note that these premises, generally speaking, are kept in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

The three Rodent Operators continued to carry out the routine work of investigating, baiting and poisoning at various properties in the town. A survey of the sewers has been carried out during the year and manholes treated in the prescribed manner. It is very necessary to discover infestations without delay particularly in food premises and an early report of any sign of rodents should be promptly made to the Health Department. Disinfestations have been carried out at the Sewage Works, Hoscār and at canteens and schools in the Borough.

During the year 83 premises were reported to be infested with rats and 35 were still under observation from complaints received in 1952. 11 premises were still under observation and 107 premises were reported as cleared at 31st December, 1953. 147 complaints of mice infestation were received during the year and on 31st December, 1953, 76 premises had been cleared and 31 still under observation. Orders were signed by occupiers of infested business premises to carry out pre-baiting and poisoning and these, in the main, proved successful. Second orders were obtained if there was any sign of infestation after a first treatment. The estimated kill was 706 (bodies found 61) rodents: this includes trapping.

A survey of the sewers was carried out and manholes were treated twice during the year:

(Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems, 1,185).

	Treatment No. 1	Treatment No. 2
1. Bait base and poison used:	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphate.	Bread rusk and arsenic.
2. Number of manholes baited	611	749
3. Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	94	171
4. Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take (on one or both days)	70	108
5. Number of manholes test-baited in conjunction with this treatment and not included in No. 2 above	161	161

Two campaigns were carried out at Hoscar Sewage Works, with the following results:—

Poison points laid	....	....	....	....	....	....	150
Poison points taken	....	....	....	....	....	....	65

The Rodent Control Operators made a total of 22,286 visits throughout the year.

The Workable Area Committee representing Wigan and the surrounding districts has met on several occasions during the year. This Committee serves a very useful purpose and tends to greater co-operation between the various local authorities in the area.

Section VII

Housing

GENERAL

Housing Accommodation, as at 31st December, 1953 :—

No. of dwelling houses	....	....	....	....	....	22,849
„ business premises with living accommodation	....					993
						<hr/> 23,842 <hr/>

No. of dwelling houses erected in 1953 :—

By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	251
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	20

The problem of housing shortage in the Borough is still with us and the Chief Sanitary Inspector has again interviewed many persons seeking the tenancy of Council houses both on overcrowding and medical grounds.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	....	....	2654
	(b) Number of re-inspections made	....	....	....	....	8160
(2)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation					30
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	....	2544

INSANITARY HOUSES

The number of dangerous and insanitary houses in the Borough is definitely increasing and very many have passed the stage when they can be rendered fit at reasonable expense. During the past few years every effort has been made to conserve as many houses as possible by serving Notices under the Public Health Act for defective roofs and spouts, etc., but such defects as interior and rising dampness caused by perished brickwork and the absence of damp-proof courses, cannot be easily remedied, particularly in property of great age and consequently the dwellings are in such an insanitary condition that action under the Housing Act is the only course possible.

As pointed out in previous reports, the whole question of insanitary houses is tied up with the housing problem and for some considerable time great difficulty has been experienced in re-housing occupants of insanitary houses within a reasonable time. This is vital where dangerous conditions exist, as many of these houses tend to become rapidly more and more dangerous and have in some cases to be shored up.

The Borough Engineer's Department has given every assistance by supplying reports on dangerous conditions existing at properties submitted for consideration to the Health (Insanitary Houses) Sub-Committee.

Thirty-eight houses were considered by the Insanitary Houses Committee. Demolition Orders were made on eighteen houses and in two cases the owner gave an undertaking not to re-let the houses for human habitation when they became vacant. Demolition Orders had not been made on the remaining properties by the end of the year.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING—DEFENCE REGULATIONS 56a

The local authority remains responsible for issuing licences in connection with private dwellings but for business premises they are issued by the Ministry of Works. Permits to obtain timber for replacing eaves gutters, floorboards, etc. were issued by the Health Department until the 10th November, when control on timber was lifted.

No. of licences issued during the year	....	....	....	....	1
No. of certificates issued to obtain eaves gutters, floor boards, etc.					625

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR

In 9 cases it was necessary to issue summonses against persons for non-compliance with abatement notices.

6 of these summonses were withdrawn as the work was completed.

One person was fined £1 although the work was completed.

2 nuisance orders were made by the Court for the work to be carried out within periods varying from 14 days to 21 days.

Section VIII

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK SUPPLY

MILK SUPPLY : FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, AND MILK AND DAIRIES
REGULATIONS, 1949.

Many visits have been paid and samples of milk taken at the five premises engaged in the pasteurisation of milk. These samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and in the main passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests. In the case of adverse reports a thorough investigation was carried out and every assistance was afforded us by the proprietors of the businesses concerned. It is not always possible to come to a definite conclusion as to the cause of unsatisfactory samples but every effort is made to do so. Periodical checks of the pasteurising plants are carried out at the premises by the Inspectors. In addition to ensuring that the milk is properly pasteurised, it is of vital importance that the sterilisation and thorough cleansing of bottles is carried out in order to make certain that the milk is delivered to the customer in as clean and hygienic condition as is humanly possible.

No. of visits to dairies	....	....	....	....	....	....	199
„ milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
No. of dealers licensed for the sale of sterilised milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	351
„ licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	115
„ licensed for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
No. of dealer (pasteuriser's) licences	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
„ dealer (steriliser's) licences	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ persons registered as distributors of milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	420
„ premises registered as dairies	....	....	....	....	....	....	12

160 samples of milk were obtained for analysis and submitted to the Public Analyst. 34 of these were the subject of adverse reports.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

146 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination :—
 PASTEURISED : 132 131 passed the Phosphatase Test. 129 of these also passed the Methylene Blue Test, and in three cases the maximum atmospheric shade temperature exceeded 65°F. and the Methylene Blue Test was therefore void.

TUBERCULIN TESTED : 3 All samples passed the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests.
 (pasteurised).

STERILISED : 11 In all cases the Turbidity Test was negative.

44 samples of raw milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the T.B. inoculation test. In 2 cases T.B. was found and the usual precautions were taken with regard to the pasteurisation of the milk until reports were received that the herd was free from infection.

ICE CREAM

MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES

There were seven premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream at the end of the year. Routine and special visits were paid to these premises and samples taken regularly each month. In the majority of cases the samples were of satisfactory quality.

Investigations were made at premises where samples were reported as unsatisfactory, and detailed enquiries were made in an endeavour to ascertain the cause of these adverse reports. It is worthy of note that every assistance was given to us by the persons concerned in the manufacture of this commodity. It cannot be too often stressed that the maintenance of these premises in a clean and hygienic condition is of the utmost importance, as also is the attitude of the staff to the washing of hands after using the toilet, and the provision of clean overalls as often as necessary.

The undermentioned samples were obtained and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and graded as follows :—

Grade 1.	57	}	Grades 1 and 2, all samples are considered satisfactory.
Grade 2.	12		
Grade 3.	3	}	Grades 3 and 4, all samples are considered unsatisfactory.
Grade 4.	2		

9 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for a report on the constituents, and these were found to be satisfactory.

RETAILERS

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1953, was 224.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

72 shops in the Borough carry on the business of fish-frying and these have been visited by the Inspectors.

Unless this type of business is carried on under hygienic conditions nuisances can arise but we have to record that special visits arising from complaints are practically unknown.

REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS OF MEAT AND PREMISES

The number of registered premises in the Borough is eighty, and routine visits to these have been made by the Inspectors.

Informal action only was necessary in a minority of cases.

The carrying of meat from vans to various butchers' premises without head coverings, appears to be on the decline, due in no small measure to the activities of the staff.

EXAMINATION OF WATER

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

During the year 48 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Analyst for examination.

The results of these examinations, expressed in averages, are given below:—

	Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	Worthington & Thirlmere No. 1	Worthington & Thirlmere No. 2
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Temporary Hardness	14.1	16.2	5.7	3.0
Permanent Hardness	7.7	1.7	9.6	3.3
Total Hardness	21.8	17.9	15.3	6.3
Soda Alkalinity.....	0.9	3.5	—	—
Combined Chlorine	3.2	2.8	2.3	1.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—	—	—	—
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.002	0.005	0.009	0.004
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—	—	—	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.15	0.11	0.19	0.10
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C.)	0.018	0.051	0.108	0.069
PH Value	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.25

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

During the year 60 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination. The results of 4 of these examinations were unsatisfactory and in consequence 4 further samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

One sample was taken in connection with a possible new source of supply, but was found to be unsatisfactory.

One sample was obtained in connection with two cases of Typhoid Fever occurring during the year. This was found to be unconnected with the source of infection.

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughterhouses in the Borough receive daily attention from the Inspectors, particularly those situate in the Scholes area where the major portion of slaughtering is carried out.

The erection of a Public Abbatoir to serve Wigan, Leigh and Bolton, as suggested by the Ministry of Food, has not yet materialised and the inspection of cattle, etc., in the Scholes area, as stated in previous reports is still carried out under conditions which are far from satisfactory. It is still claimed that a Public Abbatoir should be erected within the County Borough of Wigan and no opportunity of expressing our views to the Ministry concerned has been missed.

The butchers' shops have been regularly visited and on the whole are maintained in a satisfactory condition. The practice of selling meat from vans in the streets with its consequent risk of contamination from various sources, has considerably decreased over the years.

Meat condemned is only used for manufacturing purposes and is still sent to a local fat melter.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	....	1213
„ „ markets	....	....	....	....	....	38
„ „ butchers' and other food shops	....	....	....	....	....	1948
„ certificates issued (condemned food)	....	....	....	....	....	1294

CARCASES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR 1953

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	TOTAL
Carcases examined	4205	4017	1857	17284	33393	60756
Carcases totally condemned	11	59	13	59	19	161
Percentage totally condemned	0.26	1.47	0.70	0.34	0.06	0.26

The following meat and offal from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1953 :—

	Whole carcase and all Offal Con- demned	Part of Carcase Con- demned	OFFAL CONDEMNED									
			Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Stomachs	Spleens	Skirts	Kidneys	Udders	Mesen- teries
Affected with Tuberculosis :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	9	13	158	261	49	3	10	15	32	5	—	29
Cows	55	40	488	1340	239	33	249	199	452	22	276	329
Calves	2	—	1	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	37	47	475	394	536	150	34	10	—	3	3	64
Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases, etc. :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	2	—	7	43	390	24	14	13	19	6	—	1
Cows	4	1	6	66	1370	48	88	191	97	101	397	5
Calves	11	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	22	9	7	792	399	263	25	6	6	57	38	25
Sheep	19	8	12	107	1917	40	—	—	—	5	—	1
	161	118	1158	3008	4904	563	420	434	606	199	714	454

SUMMARY OF OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED, 1953

Imported Meat	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	976 lbs.
Other Meat and Offal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1067 lbs.
Sausages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	170 lbs.
Canned Meat	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1112
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5432 lbs.
Canned Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	694
Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	618 lbs.
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1809
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	198 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	802
Rabbits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	913
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1063
Canned Jam	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	80
Canned Soup	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	65
Packages of other food	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	850
Other canned or bottled foods	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	65
Fowl	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Skimmed Milk Powder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56 lbs.
Bacon	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16 lbs.
Lard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	66 lbs.
Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12½ lbs.
Butter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20 lbs.
Eggs (frozen)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1950 lbs.
Eggs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	231 lbs.
Cockles	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 bags

All food condemned, other than meat, is destroyed at the Frog Lane Depot.

MARKETS

The fish and fruit markets have been visited regularly, both as a routine inspection and at the request of the proprietors of stalls, to examine food considered unfit for human consumption.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year, 254 samples of milk and various other foods obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1953

Articles	Total Number Analysed	Samples regarded as adulterated below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements	
		Number	Percentage
Baking Powder	2	...	...
Beef Paste ...	1	...	...
Butter	6	...	...
Cake	2	...	...
Cheese	4	...	...
Coffee	6	...	...
Cooking Fat	1	...	...
Cornflour	1	...	...
Dried Peas ...	1	...	...
Fish Paste ...	2	...	...
Gin	2	...	...
Honey	1	...	...
Ice Cream	9	...	...
Jam	6	...	...
Jelly	1	...	...
Lard	4	...	...
Margarine	8	...	...
Marmalade ...	4	...	...
Meat Pies	4	...	...
Milk	160	*34	21.25
Mincemeat	1	...	...
Pickles	1	...	...
Rum	2	...	...
Saccharin	1	...	...
Salad Cream ...	1	...	...
Sardines	3	...	...
Sausage	6	...	...
Sauce	1	...	...
Tea	6	...	...
Tinned Strawberries	1	...	...
Vinegar	3	...	...
Whisky	3	...	...
TOTAL	254	34	13.4

* Action taken in regard to 34 adulterated samples is given on page 96.

ACTION TAKEN IN REGARD TO ADULTERATED SAMPLES

Article	No. of Sample		Extent of Adulteration	Action taken
	Informal	Formal		
Milk ...	7	—	Deficient in milk fat 17%	Formal sample taken. Genuine.
Milk ...	16	—	Deficient in non-fatty solids 3.5%	Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	—	26	Deficient in non-fatty solids 1.5%	Analyst advised no action.
Milk ...	—	65	Deficient in non-fatty solids 2.3%	Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	—	71	Deficient in non-fatty solids 2.3%	Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	75	—	Deficient in milk fat 14.6%	Formal samples Nos. 87-93 taken.
Milk ...	—	89	Deficient in milk fat 14%	} Appeal to cow samples Nos. 94-97.
Milk ...	—	90	Deficient in milk fat 8%	
Milk ...	—	94	Deficient in milk fat 6.6%	} Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	—	95	Deficient in milk fat 2.0%	
Milk ...	—	96	Deficient in milk fat 6.3%	} Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	144	—	Deficient in non-fatty solids 2.3%	
Milk ...	150	—	Deficient in non-fatty solids 3.5%	Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	154	—	Deficient in milk fat 16.6%	Formal samples Nos. 156-159 taken.
Milk ...	155	—	Deficient in milk fat 5%	Formal samples Nos. 160 and 161 taken.
Milk ...	—	156	Deficient in milk fat 5%, non-fatty solids 2.3%	} Appeal to cow Samples Nos. 166, 167, 170 and 171 taken.
Milk ...	—	157	Deficient in milk fat 20% non-fatty solids 2.9%	
Milk ...	—	158	Deficient in non-fatty solids 2.3%	
Milk ...	—	159	Deficient in non-fatty solids 4.1%	
Milk ...	—	160	Deficient in milk fat 6.6%	} Appeal to cow samples Nos. 162-165 and 168 and 169 taken.
Milk ...	—	161	Deficient in milk fat 8.3%	
Milk ...	—	165	Deficient in milk fat 13.3%	Naturally deficient
Milk ...	—	166	Deficient in non-fatty solids 2.3%	} Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	—	167	Deficient in non-fatty solids 3.5%	
Milk ...	—	168	Deficient in milk fat 6.6%	} Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	—	169	Deficient in milk fat 8.3%	
Milk ...	—	170	Deficient in non-fatty solids 1.1%	} Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	—	171	Deficient in milk fat 2.7% and non-fatty solids 8.3%	
Milk ...	—	203	Deficient in milk fat 3.3% non-fatty solids 2.3%	Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	208	—	Deficient in non-fatty solids 4.4%	Naturally deficient.
Milk ...	212	—	Adulterated with water 9.4%	Formal samples Nos. 216 and 217 taken.
Milk ...	—	216	Deficient in milk fat 5.3% and non-fatty solids 3.4%	Naturally deficient. Appeal to cow sample No. 218 taken
Milk ...	—	217	Adulterated with 10.6% water.	Fined £10 and costs.
Milk ...	—	218	Deficient in non-fatty solids 1.7%	Naturally deficient.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

The following samples of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs were obtained and submitted for analyses to the Agricultural Analyst :—

Fertilisers	....	....	....	....	....	7 samples.
Feeding Stuffs	....	....	....	....	....	8 samples.

One sample of Fertiliser and four samples of Feeding Stuffs were adversely reported upon, and the firms concerned had a copy of the analyst's report forwarded to them, followed up by a visit from our Inspectors.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst, Mr. S. E. Melling, M.Sc. (Hon.), F.R.I.C. for the following remarks on the work carried out by him on behalf of the Corporation during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1953 :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Total number of foods and drugs analysed	....	....	....	254
Number adulterated, below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements	....	....	....	34
Percentage so reported against	....	....	....	13.4

As during last year, the samples found to be below standard were all milks, but the total for the year was greater, being 34 out of 160, or 21.5% in 1953, compared with 19 out of 159, or 11.9% in 1952. There were, however, considerably less than 34 suppliers of unsatisfactory milk, for 25 of the 34 samples came from three sources.

According to the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939, genuine milk contains, until the contrary is proved, a minimum of 3.0% of fat and 8.5% of non-fatty solids. Where there is a deficiency in non-fatty solids and the results of the Freezing Point test (Hortvet) indicate the presence of extraneous water an "appeal to cow" sample is taken, and comparison of the analytical results of this and the deficient sample allows of an assessment of the adulteration in terms of the amount of added water present. When a sample is found to be deficient in fat an appeal to the herd may or may not follow according to the circumstances and particularly where the shortage is only slight. The lag in natural variation tends to be wider in fat than in non-fatty solids constituents, and even when the findings call for reference to the animal the comparative results demand a very careful interpretation. The determination of the Freezing Point in these questionable samples, as a general rule, is not called for, but here again the result of preliminary examination is the governing factor.

Of the 34 samples reported against only two were watered. 14 were deficient in fat, 13 naturally deficient in non-fatty solids, and 5 were deficient in both these constituents.

(A table "Action taken in regard to adulterated samples" will be found on page 96).

In every case except that of No. 217 the deficiency in fat or non-fatty solids content, or the amount of water present, was calculated on the basis of the standards set by the Sale of Milk Regulations. In the case of No. 217, however, since one of the two appeals (No. 218) was naturally deficient in non-fatty solids, the percentage of added water present was calculated from the non-fatty solids content of the deficient appeal sample, and the adulteration was conclusively corroborated on application of the Freezing Point (Hortvet) test.

It will be seen that when No. 75 was found to be deficient in fat seven formal samples were taken from the source, two of them also deficient. Four "appeal to cow" samples were then taken, three of them being naturally deficient, thus implying that the fat-deficient samples from this source were all naturally so and not due to skimming or the addition of separated milk.

After Nos. 154 and 155 were found to be deficient in fat eleven formal samples and five "appeal to cow" samples were taken from this source. Of the formal samples eight were deficient in one or other or both constituent, as were all five "appeals," and it appears therefore that all these samples also, although sub-normal, had not been tampered with.

There remain nine samples which were not followed by the taking of an "appeal" sample. In eight of these the Freezing Point (Hortvet) test indicated that the slight deficiency in non-fatty solids was natural and not due to the presence of extraneous water. The ninth is No. 7 which was deficient in fat and informally taken; when a formal sample was taken (No. 31) it was found to be genuine.

The various samples of foodstuffs (ice cream), margarine, jam, tea, coffee, butter, sausage, whisky, gin, rum, malt vinegar, etc.) were of sound quality and complied with the Regulations which applied to them.

The composition and quality of most of these foods are governed by requirements set out in the Schedules to Ministry of Food Orders which may undergo amendment at any time according to supply and demand. For instance, an erstwhile standard may no longer apply, as in the case of sausages, where up to quite recently the beef and pork varieties were required to contain minima of 50% and 65% meat content respectively. At the moment there are no such limits, and until the Ministry decides upon something like a statutory meat content for the two types it is left to the Justices to fix a "standard" if they think fit on the evidence of the Public Analyst supplemented by the testimony of the manufacturers.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

During the year seven samples of fertiliser and eight of feeding stuffs were formally taken and submitted for examination.

The fertilisers were complete fertiliser, grass and grain manure, superior top dressing manure, grass fertiliser, potato fertiliser, National No. 6 and National No. 1.

The complete fertiliser contained 1.6% more potash than was stated in the statutory statement, and this amount is in excess of the limits of variation, but scarcely to the prejudice of the purchaser. The remaining samples were in order.

The feeding stuffs were dairy cubes, lay pellets, palm kernels, extracted ground nut meal, rapid fattening cakelettes, horse food cakelettes, lay-test chick raising pellets and lay-test turkey growing meal.

In four of these there were differences exceeding the limits of variation in the amount of one or more constituent present as compared with the amount stated in the statutory statements. The lay pellets were 1.8% deficient in fibre. The extracted ground nut meal and horse food cakelettes contained 0.4% and 1.2% respectively excess oil. The rapid fattening cakelettes were 0.9% deficient in oil and contained 2.3% excess albuminoids. In the remaining four samples the particulars were correct within the limits of variation.

WATER SUPPLY.

The quality of the public supplies is subject to constant supervision and monthly information as to the degree of purity and wholesome nature is available to the Health and Water Committees. It is therefore not proposed to recite the analytical returns given in the certificates issued which are retained in one or other Department.

From the chemical aspect the results of consistent control were such as to allow of a favourable opinion throughout.

Organically the soft Thirlmere water of low salinity is of a high degree of purity and, indeed, both supplies drawn from the Nicholson and Bispham bores merit the same classification and have remained stable in constitution and constant in their physical characteristics.

True, the Edgewood adjunct to the former may, under unfavourable climatic conditions, have a detectable effect by reason of uptake of surface vegetable, etc. elements but, even so, one has never had any anxiety regarding potable fitness of the supply in course of distribution provided always sterilisation is assured.

The Worthington supply fluctuates in quality and the organic (analytical) indices are consistent with those of water derived from an unprotected gathering ground subject to surface contamination, the type of which is convincingly demonstrable by the more sensitive bacteriological examination. In such circumstances, the call for vigilance in the production of drinking-water quality is clamant and whatsoever the percentage purification achieved by conditioning and treatment at Worthington—storage, flocculation and filtration—the last line of defence (chlorination or other) is the vital factor in the furnishing of a wholesome potable quality.

(Signed) S. ERNEST MELLING,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX

HOME NURSING SERVICE

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES—1953.

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	....	5
Tuberculosis, other forms	....	....	....	....	....	4
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	....	3
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	6
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	8
Diseases due to helminths	....	....	....	....	....	12
Malignant neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	98
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	12
Diabetes mellitus	....	....	....	....	....	50
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	....	....	....	....	....	115
Conjunctivitis	....	....	....	....	....	4
Blepharitis	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cataract	....	....	....	....	....	1
Glaucoma	....	....	....	....	....	—
Acute otitis media	....	....	....	....	....	56
Mastoiditis	....	....	....	....	....	3
Rheumatic Fever	....	....	....	....	....	2
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	....59
Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	....	....	....	26
Acute pharyngitis	....	....	....	....	....	1
Tonsillitis	....	....	....	....	....	14
Laryngectomy	....	....	....	....	....	—
Tracheotomy	....	....	....	....	....	1
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	16
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	76
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	142
Quinsy	....	....	....	....	....	13
Empyema	....	....	....	....	....	1
All other respiratory diseases	....	....	....	....	....	32
Appendicitis	....	....	....	....	....	4
Hernia of abdominal cavity	....	....	....	....	....	8
Laparotomy	....	....	....	....	....	6
Enteritis	....	....	....	....	....	3
Gastrectomy	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cholecystectomy	....	....	....	....	....	6
Diseases of gall bladder and biliary ducts	....	....	....	....	....	12
Other diseases of digestive system	....	....	....	....	....	6
Diseases of genital organs	....	....	....	....	....	7
Prostatectomy	....	....	....	....	....	9
Supra-pubic drainage	....	....	....	....	....	7
Cystotomy	....	....	....	....	....	2
Diseases of uterus	....	....	....	....	....	183
Hysterectomy	....	....	....	....	....	2

Complications of pregnancy	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Complications of puerperium (hyperpyrexia)	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Post caesarian (from 7th day)	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Post natal	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Miscarriages....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Threatened miscarriages	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Infections of the skin :	Boils	....	....	....	....	....	22
	Abscesses :	Breast	....	....	....	....	19
		Others	....	....	....	....	23
	Cellulitis	....	....	....	....	....	8
	Carbuncles	....	....	....	....	....	14
	Eczema	....	....	....	....	....	2
	Dermatitis	....	....	....	....	....	3
	Scabies	....	....	....	....	....	2
	Impetigo	....	....	....	....	....	3
	General rashes	....	....	....	....	....	8
Arthritis and rheumatism	....	....	....	....	....	....	39
Other conditions :	Constipation, septic areas, bedsores, debility, etc.	497
Accidents :	Fractures	11
	Scalds	6
	Burns	16
	Injuries due to falling	15
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